

No 61,830

THE TIMES
Tomorrow

Through the gap
FA Cup finalists Wat-
ford, the team that went
from nowhere to the top
under manager Graham
Taylor



Shirt tales

Suzi Menkes looks at
what's new in shirt
fashions
On his Owen
One man and his party:
Peter Kellner on Dr
David Owen
East side story
Computer Horizons
visits Tokyo to meet the
family man who has
become Japan's Mr Fifth
Generation

Chernenko
is ill
say envoys

West European diplomats said
yesterday that President Chernenko
had appeared "in poor
shape" during talks with King
Juan Carlos of Spain last
Thursday and Friday.
They said Mr Chernenko,
aged 72, had to be helped out of
his car by aides who supported
him under each elbow.
The scene was reminiscent of
Mr Andropov's state of health
this time last year.

Bodies exhumed

The bodies of two young
Palestinians killed after they
hijacked an Israeli bus have
been exhumed for autopsies as
part of an investigation into
their deaths.

Cenotaph place

Dr David Owen, the Social
Democratic Party leader, is
expected to win his campaign to
be allowed to lay a wreath at the
Cenotaph in Whitehall on Sunday.

Cyprus rebuff

The UN Security Council has
issued a strongly-worded com-
munication of attempts by
Turkish Cypriots to consolidate
their self-proclaimed state in the
north of the island.

Libyan claims

The Foreign Office yesterday
dismissed as "absurd" Libyan
claims that the British
Government helped anti-
Gaddafi terrorists living in
Britain.

Punjab riots

Rioting spread throughout
Punjab and the neighbouring
state of Haryana after a Hindu
editor was shot and killed by
Sikh extremists in Jullundur at
the weekend.

Teachers' pay

Employers on the teachers' pay
negotiating body are expected to
seek ways of breaking the pay
talks deadlock over the next few
days.

Laker action

The Director General of Fair
Trading has stepped into a long-
running dispute over reim-
bursement of travellers after the
Laker Airways collapse.

Faldo's encore

Nick Faldo won the £100,000
Car Care Plan International at
Moortown for the second
successive year, beating Howard
Clark by one shot.

Leader page 15

Letters: On Northern Ireland
from Mr J. E. Hamilton; the
miners from Mr Joe Ashton,
MP; the Olympics from Dom
D. Morland, OSB and others.

Features pages 12-14

Labour and the miners' strike:
the top brass in Heseltine;
sights: why the big top is caving
in; to lie or not to lie? Spectrum;
the Bounty sails again. Monday
page: divorce, American-style
Gatwick Express.

A Special Report marks the
opening of British Rail's non-
stop rail service between
Victoria and Gatwick airport.

Obituary, page 16
Mr David Vercy, Mr Bertram
Nelson
Classified, pages 27 to 30
La crème de la crème, careers
horizons and education ap-
pointments

Home News 2-4
Olympics 2, 7, 10
Sports 16, 22
Arts 28
Business 21-23
TV & Radio 31
Crossword 32
Diary 14

Unita frees British
hostages after
visit by diplomat

From Michael Hornsby, Jamba, Unita headquarters in Angola

The 16 Britons and one
Portuguese taken hostage on
February 23 by Angolan in-
surgents were handed over here
at the weekend to Sir John Leahy,
a special Foreign Office envoy,
after 79 days in captivity.

They were flown to Johan-
nesburg yesterday afternoon in
a C130 transport aircraft hired
from the South Africans, and
are due to fly home to Britain
tonight.

Sir John, the most senior
British diplomat concerned
with African affairs, took them
into his custody amid tribal
singing and dancing at a
midnight ceremony on Saturday
in a makeshift stadium at
guerrilla headquarters here,
after three hours of talks with
Dr Jonas Savimbi, the leader of
the Unita movement, and his
top political and military aides.

In a short speech, Sir John,
who at times looked ill at ease,
said it had been suggested to
him before he left Britain that it
was humiliating to have to go
and beg for the release of British
citizens. "I have not had to beg
for anything today, and if this is
humiliation, I can take a lot
more of it," he declared to
cheers.

In the circumstances, the 17
hostages - 16 men and one
Portuguese wife of one of them
- looked remarkably well. All
said they had been well treated
by their Unita captors, who had
done what they could to
mitigate their ordeal.

For 32 days of their captivity
they were force-marched

through 300 miles of inhospitable bush in constant fear of counter-attack by Angolan Government forces.

The Britons were originally
part of a larger group of
foreigners captured during a
Unita attack on Kafunfo, a
diamond mining town in north-
eastern Angola. They were
working there under contract to
British-based companies. The
other captives were set free last
month, but Dr Savimbi con-
tinued to hold the British group
because of dissatisfaction with
Britain's attitude towards
Unita.

A series of meetings ensued
between Unita representatives
and Foreign Office officials in
London. Dr Savimbi wanted a
Government minister to come
out to his "provisional capital",
while London was initially only
prepared to send a Conservative
MP. Sir John was the eventual
compromise choice in a diplo-
matically delicate situation for
Britain, which recognises the
Marxist regime in Luanda as

the legal Government of
Angola.

Sir John flew by helicopter
into the "liberated zone of free
Angola", as Unita calls the
south-eastern third of the
country which it claims to
control, from an airstrip in
northern Namibia, with a little
help from the South African
military authorities. He spent
the night at Jamba in a well-
appointed thatched-and-reed hut
as Dr Savimbi's guest and flew
back to South Africa yesterday
morning.

Dr Savimbi is well-known for
his grasp of the importance of
public relations, and an inter-
national group of journalists
was also flown into Angola for
the occasion.

The last leg of our journey to
Jamba was a bone-shaking nine-
hour lorry drive through the
dense bush which gave some
inkling of the discomforts
suffered by the hostages during
their 800-mile journey south
from Kafunfo to Jamba.

Dr Savimbi, a bearded figure
in crisp camouflage uniform
and red beret, with a pistol at
his hip and a black, ivory-hand-
led cane in his right hand, told
us that Unita "considers" (Sir
John's visit) a victory. They
(the British) didn't take us
seriously. They ignored the
presence of Unita. The fact is
that I am not going to stop
fighting. I am still advancing,
and more British citizens could
be at risk."

Earlier, at an arrival cer-
emony, he said: "I am still advancing,
and more British citizens could
be at risk."

Sir John Leahy (left)
and Dr SavimbiUS warned
on Brazil
repayments

By Graham Searjeant

Brazil has warned the US that
new restrictions on imported
Brazilian steel could stop debt
repayments to American banks.
"If they don't buy our steel,
we won't be able to pay our
debts," Senior Cautito Penna,
Brazil's Commerce and Indus-
try Minister, said at a weekend
press conference.

US banks hold about a third
of Brazil's estimated \$100
billion foreign debt.
The latest American restric-
tions involve higher duties to
counteract what the US sees as
unfair Brazilian subsidies to its
effectively state-controlled steel
industry.

Brazil argues that its low
prices reflect lower wages and
successive currency devalu-
ations forced on it as conditions
for loan rescheduling.
Senior Penna has been the
most outspoken of Brazil's
ministers in stressing the inter-
national difficulties caused by loan
conditions and increasing
American interest rates and
protectionism, which have
contributed to recent riots.

Brazil sent a formal letter of
complaint to creditor nations
last week about the effect on its
debt burden of the latest
increase in American interest
rates.

EEC meeting, page 21

Olympic official fails
to shift Moscow

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The senior Olympic official
who came to Moscow this
weekend to try to save the Los
Angeles Games emerged yester-
day from his talks empty-hand-
ed, and diplomats said Mos-
cow's decision not to attend
now seemed irrevocable.

Sources said the next step
could be for Russia to suggest
that Third World nations
should also stay away. Tass said
the Olympic would be "in-
ferior" and "lacklustre" without
the Soviet block.

Señor Mario Vazquez Rana of
Mexico met Mr Marat Gramov,
head of the Soviet Olympic
Committee, for several hours,
but failed to extract assurances
that Moscow might reconsider.

Mr Gramov said he was
prepared to talk to Señor Juan
Antonio Samaranch, president
of the International Olympic
Committee, who hopes to visit
Moscow this week. Diplomats
noted that this was already
known before Señor Vazquez
Rana arrived. Mr Gramov is
expected to indicate his attitude
to further talks when he gives a
press conference in Moscow
today.

"Gramov has to suggest the
door is still open," one Western
diplomat commented. "Other-
wise there would be no point in
Samaranch coming at all."

Abduction fear over 3 children

By Colin Hughes

Police yesterday launched a
nationwide search for three
north London children who it is
feared may have been abducted
by a former amusement arcade
manager.

Scotland Yard is looking for
Mr Leslie Loates, aged 41, who
ran Fairplay Arcade, in Hollo-
way Road, until last Wednes-
day.

Mr Loates left his job, but
stayed in the flat above the
arcade until Saturday morning,
after selling his car for £80 on
Friday.

Arcade attendants have told
police that Mr Loates be-
friended the three children over
recent weeks, and is believed to
have met them at the arcade
before they disappeared at
about lunchtime on Saturday.

Mr Loates had mentioned
leaving for Scotland or Ireland,

Three missing: Denise Boezalt, Ian Ward, and Emma
Bishop, who disappeared on Saturday.

and is known to have friends in
Essex, but Mr Cheal said he
could be anywhere. The chil-
dren, whose home addresses
are not being revealed by
police, are Ian Robert Ward,
aged 15, Denise Boezalt, aged
12, and Emma Bishop, aged 12.

"The children have never left
home before, and we are deeply
concerned for their physical

safety," Mr Cheal added.
"Their parents share our worst
fears, and they are appealing
for whoever is with these
children to return them before
they come to any harm."

Mr Loates, an indignant, is
described as scruffy, five feet
eight inches tall, slim, and
wearing a brown suede bomber
jacket.

Special umpires called in for McEnroe

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Hamburg

John McEnroe's debut in the
World Team Cup competition at
Dusseldorf from May 21 to
27 has induced the organizers to
install the umpiring equivalent
of an intensive care unit. The
sympathetic expertise of Mike
Lugg (Britain), Peter Kasavoge
(United States) and possibly
Man Cox (Britain) will rein-
force the regular team of
certified officials.

These imported, widely ex-
perienced umpires know their
stuff. They also know their
McEnroe - and speak the same
language. Their presence should
tend to test the umpire's
knowledge and character more
than most. The same sort of

thing happens in other pro-
fessional sports.

Keith Johnson, the Grand
Prix supervisor in Hamburg,
said yesterday: "It's a question
of quality. We always want to
have the best officials and
experience is always desirable
when dealing with potentially
difficult matches."

The name of the game is
controlling the match - and that
means controlling the players.
McEnroe is not the type of
player to whom German ump-
ires are accustomed. Like
McEnroe, these umpires should
welcome a little help from
English-speaking experts.

Dusseldorf will provide
McEnroe with competitive
stress on European clay im-
mediately before the
supreme clay-court test, the
French championships. No
American has won the French
men's title since Tony Trabert
did so in 1955. But McEnroe is
playing the best tennis of his
career. Dusseldorf will be an
ideal preparation for Paris, and
the players who contested last
year's French final, Yannick
Noah, and Mats Wilander, have
both been beaten here during
that delightful festival, the
German championships.

German championships, page 24



Flight to freedom: The freed British hostages stepping onto the tarmac at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport on the first leg of their flight home.

MPs puzzled
by arrest
of Heseltine
aideBy Philip Webster
Political Reporter

Colleagues of Mr Keith
Hampson, the Conservative
MP for Leeds North West, were
saddened yesterday by the news
of his resignation as parliamen-
tary secretary to Mr
Michael Heseltine, the Secretary
of State for Defence, and
mystified by the circumstances
surrounding it.

His resignation was offered
and accepted in a telephone
conversation with Mr Heseltine
at lunchtime on Saturday, a few
hours after the minister had
learned of Mr Hampson's arrest
11 days ago for allegedly
making an indecent assault on a
plainclothes policeman in a
London male strip club.

Mr Heseltine had been
informed of the alleged incident
at about 9.15am on Saturday by
a senior official in the Defence
Ministry's press department,
who had been contacted by the
Sunday Telegraph and told
about the arrest, which took
place in the Gay Theatre, in
Soho, on May 3.

Mr Heseltine was said to
have been staggered by the
news. Downing Street was
informed about the incident late
on Friday, when unsuccessful
attempts were made to contact
Mr Heseltine.

Government officials were
adamant yesterday that there
were no security implications in
the affair.

The Government, however,
will be asked why Mr Heseltine
was not informed sooner. It was
pointed out that Mr Hampson
could have told him, and had
not done so, but some MPs
were saying that it was wrong
and embarrassing that the
Government should apparently
have found out as a result of
newspaper inquiries.

Scotland Yard said yesterday
that there was no "formal
channel" for informing govern-
ment departments if MPs were
arrested.

The predominant feeling
among MPs yesterday was one
of shock and sympathy at the
predicament of Mr Hampson,
who is highly popular in the
House of Commons.

Mr Hampson, aged 40 and
married, was alleged to have
indecently assaulted a plain-
clothes policeman from Scot-
land Yard's club squad who was
on duty with a woman col-
league. He was arrested, taken to
a police station and released
pending a report to the Metro-
politan Police solicitors' depart-
ment. He was not charged.

Mr Hampson said that he
had resigned to avoid embar-
rassment to Mr Heseltine and
the Government "because of
personal problems" resulting
from one night a week or so ago
when I was totally fed up and
drank far too much."

Pit strikers widen
blockade to
oil-fired stations

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Striking miners are intensify-
ing their action against power
stations, particularly oil-fired
generating sites, and further
restrictions on the movement of
coal are likely.

These are the latest moves in
the pit stoppage, which today
enters its tenth week with a
mass demonstration in Mans-
field, heart of the moderate
Nottinghamshire coalfield,
where most miners are defying
the call for industrial action.

The first results of the new
campaign against power sup-
plies were seen yesterday at
Ramsgate, in Kent, where more
than 30 local miners were
arrested on a picket line at the
harbour. More than 200 pitman
gathered to prevent the transfer
of 2,000 tonnes of oil from a
tanker to the Richborough to
power station, which was itself
picketed.

The National Union of
Mineworkers is calling for a
maximum turnout of miners
and their supporters at today's
march and rally. Union leaders
believe that police, who have
effectively cordoned off Not-
tinghamshire for more than two
months, will relax their road-
blocks so that striking pitmen
from Yorkshire, Derbyshire and
other areas, can take part.

A union official last night
promised "a massive show of
unity", and tens of thousands of
striking miners could be on the
streets. But the union added: "Our
aim will not be to intimidate but
to shame Nottinghamshire miners
into joining us. Our fight is their
fight, but a lot of them do not
seem to realize that yet."

Mr Arthur Scargill, the
miners' president, will today
reaffirm his call to men in the
coalfield who have been work-
ing to join the stoppage over pit
closures.

Moves to step up the
blockade of power stations were
disclosed in a speech in
Kirkcaldy on Saturday by Mr
Eric Clarke, secretary of the
Scottish miners.

There are further indications
that the dispute is expected to
run for many more weeks. The
National Coal Board has ad-
vised Buckingham Palace that
arrangements for the Queen to
open the Selby "super pit" in
Yorkshire on June 28 will have
to be shelved.

Striking miners and the
board have reached agreement
to start work today to save
Wolston colliery, in north
Staffordshire in what the board
described as "a victory for
common sense" (our Stoke-on-
Trent Correspondent writes).

The board had said that the
pit faced permanent shutdown
at the end of the month unless
shaft maintenance work was
carried out.

Police roadblocks used to
stop miners reaching picket
lines could be illegal, Inspector
Bob Lax, of the South York-
shire Police Federation, said.
The federation would like the
law tested in court (our
Sheffield Correspondent
writes).

Labour on the spot, page 14
Letters, page 15

Continued on back page, col 4

The joy and
agony of
London's
marathon

By Alan Hamilton

They had turned off the
clock and were taking down the
finishing line because the
police wanted to reopen the
street, as the final stragglers
in the fourth London Marathon
limped, hobbled, walked or
jogged their aching joints on
the Westminster Bridge yester-
day.

Big Ben was showing a mite
after 5.30pm and the winners
had trodden those last desper-
ate yards nearly six hours
earlier. But it did not matter.
An official was still on duty
with a handful of beribboned
medals, and there was applause
from the few remaining spec-
tators.

The only records to be
broken by that time were
personal records of bloodied
but unbowed determination.

It was not a day of broken
records, except that the 18,469
competitors crossing the start-
ing line at Greenwich made it
the world's biggest race, at
least until next year. However,
Ingrid Kristiansen, from Nor-
way, the first woman to finish,
achieved a time of 2hr 24min
26sec, making it the second
fastest female marathon run in
history.

She ran in world cross-
country championships at
Gateshead last year without
realizing she was three months
pregnant. She started training
for London 10 days after the
birth.

Priscilla Welsh of Kingston
upon Thames, the second

SDP backs
working
minersFrom Julian Haviland
and Tony Hodges
Edinburgh

A motion strongly critical of
Mr Arthur Scargill and the
miners' leadership was debated
by the Social Democratic
Party's policy-making council
in Edinburgh yesterday, but
withdrawn after members criti-
cized it as one-sided.

In an emergency debate on
the miners' dispute members
condemned intimidation of
miners who wish to work. But
they also criticized police road-
blocks and the Government's
refusal to intervene in the
dispute.

Mr William Rodgers, the
party's vice-president, said the
Government should accept
responsibility for dealing with
the human and social problems
of pit closures.

The council passed a motion
supporting Leicestershire and
Nottinghamshire miners in
their determination to work on.

On Saturday the council
informally adopted the Alliance
platform for last month's
European elections, jointly
constructed with the Liberals.

The document argues that the
real crisis of the European
Community is not agricultural
but industrial. The Alliance
parties have no qualms about
increasing community spending
by first raising the value-added
tax ceiling and then seeking
other sources of taxation. They
say this need not mean in-
creases in British taxation.

They say they are alone
among British parties in looking
for "an ever-closer union
among the peoples of Europe",
and they want the use of the
national veto in the Council of
Ministers to be severely
restricted.

Conference report and mani-
festo, page 4

BUSINESS NEWSFLASH

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Teachers' Employers make new attempt to end pay deadlock

By Colin Hughes

Employers on the teachers' pay negotiating body are expected to seek ways of breaking the deadlock in pay talks over the next few days.

Mrs Nikki Harrison, chairman of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities' representatives on the employers' panel, has said that she is considering calling for a meeting of all the employers' representatives.

She could not specify possible avenues to a solution of the pay dispute, which is causing disruption to thousands of schools, but Mr Philip Merridale, chairman of the panel and leader of the dominant Conservative-controlled Association of County Councils' block, said yesterday that he would agree to any substantial proposal for fresh discussions among employers' leaders.

Mr Merridale was also more conciliatory in tone towards the teachers than he has been since they rejected a 4.5 per cent pay offer and began a work-to-rule two weeks ago. He conceded yesterday that teachers had a strong case for recognition of their professional status.

He said that teachers had written to him that they were taking action because they no longer received the public esteem they felt they deserved.

and saw their pay levels as a "warranty" of that esteem.

Mr Merridale believed that teachers were aware that they appeared to be fighting to win more than the 4.5 per cent which their colleagues in Scotland and in further education have accepted already, but they were in fact seeking to break out of the low-pay trap.

"It is a view we understand", Mr Merridale said. "The tragedy is that the timing of this dispute will not help to win improvement for the 100,000 or so teachers who are stuck in a promotion cul-de-sac."

He repeated his belief that the teachers' best hopes of improving their pay lay in restructuring salary scales, and that the present action over this year's pay threatened hopes of "marketing" a restructuring package to the Government and the public.

Mr Merridale's remarks are unlikely to cut any ice with teachers' union leaders, who doubt that the Government would provide much extra money for restructuring next year. Talks on restructuring are continuing in spite of the present dispute, and both sides are keen to present the Government with proposals by the end of next month.

The teachers' side, however, is suspicious of several key points, apart from the question of how much extra cash will be provided. Restructuring would introduce assessment tests for teachers before they could move on to higher salary scales, and the Government wants changes in teachers' contracts to make many voluntary duties obligatory.

A more likely route by which the employers could resolve the dispute is a small additional offer spread among lower-paid teachers, backed by a commitment to win more funds for restructuring.

The unions' position is that there must be an improved offer or arbitration to settle the dispute, but yesterday's remarks made clear that both Mrs Harrison and Mr Merridale, on separate sides of the management panel, are looking for a way of bringing union leaders back to the negotiating table without loss of face on either side.

If the employers do meet, their next step would be to approach the pay body's independent chairman, Sir John Worrie, asking him to reconvene the full Burnham Committee for renewed talks.

Lords plea to boost EEC coal production

By Frances Williams

Strong support for continuing Britain's advanced gas-cooled nuclear reactor programme (AGRs) and for greater investment in European and especially British coal production comes in a report on EEC energy policy published yesterday by the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities.

The committee speaks of the dangers of European over-reliance on the pressurised water reactor (PWR) technology for nuclear electricity generation - the design used for almost all the newly-built reactors in other EEC countries and adopted in a controversial decision by the British Government for the proposed Sizewell B station in Suffolk.

To rely only on PWRs could have one grave disadvantage, the committee argues. "If even one PWR should have an accident or repeat the incident at Three Mile Island, public opinion might swing against the whole nuclear programme."

The only proven alternative is the British-designed AGR of the type now operating at Hinkley Point, Somerset, the committee says, describing it as "a model of efficiency". After years of problems with reactor construction, two AGRs now being built are expected to be completed on time and within budget, the report adds.

The committee argues that nuclear power and coal together must meet the EEC's future energy needs.

In a passage likely to be seized on by both sides in the present coal dispute, the committee says that there is a strong case for spending more to maximise European coal production "to the extent that this can be done economically", adding that Britain provides the best prospects for profitable production.

The report also suggests the building of more gas and electricity grids connecting EEC countries, including the controversial proposals for a gas pipeline links with Norway and the Soviet Union.

More effort to reduce dependence on imported oil. What little progress there has been is due to the recession, it says.

Environmental fears to be balanced against "enormous advantages and convenience" of reasonably priced energy.

A study of the comparative safety and environmental hazards of nuclear power and other sources which would both reassure and inform public opinion.

European Community Energy Strategy and objectives. Seventeenth report of the House of Lords European Communities Committee, Session 1983-84, HL 208 (Stationery Office, £2.45).

'Scandal' of low church membership

The falling membership in the Church of Scotland is the sign of a "serious breakdown within the life of the Church" and a "scandal",

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will be told in a report called *Towards a National Programme for Evangelism* that the "tragic loss" of young people in the Church, is not simply a serious concern for the future of the Church, but a serious charge against a church which received children in baptism and failed to nurture their faith to mature discipleship.

The report claims that the breakdown within the Church stems from a lack of real conviction regarding the meaning of the Church and "it is symptomatic of the fact that we do not believe in the Church operating within the economy of salvation".

The report says the present situation is one of administrative and pastoral breakdown, and "the church's scandal is that of its missing members".

The main thrust of the White Paper will concern his determination to get better value for the £17,000m which Britain is spending on defence this year. He will point to steps he has taken to sharpen competition for defence contracts and to studies which may lead to more defence work being given to private contractors, and to streamline the command and administrative structures of the armed forces.

Different strands of government policy are producing a conflict now over the placing of contracts for the construction of two Type-22 frigates for the Royal Navy. Three shipyards are believed to have bid for this work: Vospers Thornycroft near Portsmouth, Swan Hunter on Tyne and Cammell Laird on Merseyside.

Air Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is believed to be urging that the order be given to Vospers.

Heseltine off target, page 14

Jobs worry Tories

By Ronald Faux

Looming behind the rousing rhetoric and the insistent pledges that government policy was "winning through" were three issues causing unease among Scottish Conservatives at their conference in Perth at the weekend.

The first was that central Scotland seems likely to be hit soon by further unemployment if, as expected, the Leyland truck factory at Bathgate closes with the loss of 1,750 jobs.

Secondly, the Government admitted that it has failed to impress voters with its achievements and is unable to stop bad economic news from drowning the good. All the Prime Minister could do was to encourage individual enterprise, point optimistically at the growing number of foreign firms setting up in Scotland and admit that she could not say when the next opening in the market place would come.

Worst of all was the result of the recent local elections in Scotland, when the Conservatives were severely defeated. There are achievements for which the Conservatives believe they should be more widely congratulated: action against high-spending councils, sales of council houses.

Home improvements: 1

How the grants tap was turned off

A home owner who moved to Bromley, Kent, at the end of last year soon discovered loose slates on his roof and was told by a builder that the roof needed to be replaced at a cost of £3,500.

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In addition, the area has now

Engineers call for £1bn investment in hydroelectric power

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's civil engineering industry has called for a £1,000m investment programme to double hydro-electricity generation in northern Scotland. It says money could be raised by an index-linked government bond.

As a first stage, the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors today urges the Government to hold a new inquiry into the practicality of increasing significantly Britain's hydro-power capacity.

It says that for more than 20 years about 1,000 megawatts (MW) of technical hydro capacity have been available for development - a similar amount to that already generated by the North of Scotland Hydroelectric Board.

Yet, because of the economic attraction of thermal power stations in the 1960s, no new big schemes have been approved.

In a report suggesting the inquiry, 22 years after the Mackenzie report identified the potential, the federation says: "Hydro-power generation offers major advantages over other forms of generation as regards environment, fuel diversification, employment, export earnings and technological progress, together with substantial cost advantages."

The federation says the hydro board has carried out intensive development, "but it is clear that this resource should not only be carefully nurtured but

exploited to the fullest possible degree."

In 1963 and 1964 the board listed four sites in remote areas of northern Scotland that were "under promotion" and "others said to be under survey".

These and sites being investigated could have generated an estimated 640MW. The federation emphasises that some of the schemes has been initiated.

Mr Jim Stevenson, the federation chairman, said that while 1,000MW might be equal to only one new thermal station, the savings would be considerable. It costs 0.7p to generate one unit from hydro power, against 4p for power from fossil fuels.

The federation believes the financing of new schemes would be beyond the means of the highly geared hydro board, particularly at a time of spending cuts.

The schemes under promotion in 1963-64 at Nevis, Llyn Fawr, Ffawr and Loch A' Bhraoin would now cost £100m and be large in relation to the board's £646m of assets.

It says the index-linked bond could raise the funds.

The report is published at the same time as its latest workload survey showing that, while the depressed industry has not experienced worsening conditions since the start of the year, companies are pessimistic about prospects.

Science Report, page 16

Whitehall recruiting shake-up urged

A radical shake-up of the Civil Service Commission and a strengthening of its 129-year-old role as a watchdog against political interference in Whitehall recruitment are recommended in an unpublished Rayner scrutiny which will be presented to ministers soon.

The investigation was carried out by Virginia Novarra, a principal officer on secondment from the Department of Trade and Industry. It found that clear responsibility for Whitehall recruitment policy was lacking, as it was split between the commission and the Management and Personnel Office (MPO).

The commission is praised as a repository of experience and a monument to incorruptibility. But the Novarra report produced a litany of shortcomings in management, motivation and accountability.

She recommends that the commission be given clear responsibility for recruitment policy. She found that greater cost effectiveness would be achieved if individual departments were charged for its services instead of getting them free, and that morale would be improved if the commission were encouraged to seek custom from quangos or departments looking for names to include on their lists of "the good and the great".

She comments unfavourably on the high staff wastage in the Civil Service. It cost almost £20,000 to recruit an administrative trainee, but a quarter resign within five years of joining a department. Clearer recruitment policy and improved research and follow-up would help.

Recruitment to the Civil Service is still based on the nineteenth century idea of a career for life she says. It has failed to adapt to greater mobility and changing patterns of employment including part-time work.

Suggested reforms include:

● The commission should be responsible for overall recruitment policy and should assume control within six months if possible.

● Costs should be assessed by making departments pay for services.

● More recruitment research and a vigorous attempt to cut down staff wastage.

● The commission's funding should be separated from that of MPO so that it could run more like a business and become more efficient, effective and accountable.

The constitutional position of the commission was outside her terms of reference. But she found its independence could be more secure and recommended that a separate investigation be undertaken.

Woodland destroyed

By a Staff Reporter

The fine weather brought fire havoc to some parts of England yesterday. The drop in reservoir levels caused by the exceptionally dry spring led to a ban on garden hoses in south-east Wales.

About 427,000 households are affected by the ban and it is probable that similar restrictions will be imposed in north Wales next weekend. The Welsh Water Authority said yesterday: "The water that people pour on their lawns today could be their pot of tea in September."

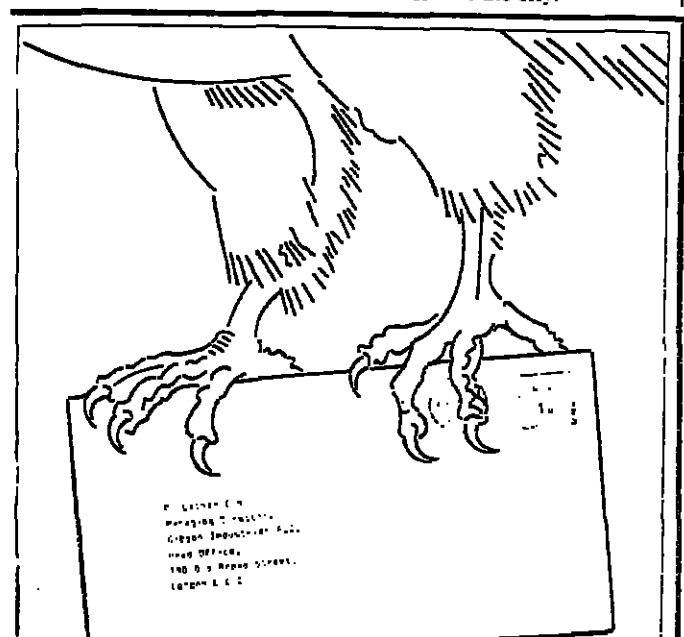
Thousands of trees over

three square miles were destroyed by a fire in Thetford Forest, Norfolk. More than 170 firemen fought it for three hours.

Another fire at Woodbury Common, Devon, destroyed about five square miles of scrubland.

Six arrested

Detectives investigating a house fire in Glasgow in which six members of a family died arrested five men and one woman on Saturday at different addresses in the city.



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WIGGINS TEAPE



Dr Graham in Bristol at the start of his summer campaign in England.

4,000 respond to Billy Graham's campaign call

From Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent, Bristol

Dr Billy Graham began his summer campaign in England with two mass meetings at the Bristol football stadium at the weekend, each time drawing about 2,000 people to "come forward" to signify their conversion.

That was hailed by the organizers as an exceptional response. Saturday's crowd was estimated at 31,000 and yesterday's at 25,000. More than 500 coaches had brought them from within a 100 mile radius in the south-west of England.

It was a restrained crowd on both occasions, listening in silence to Dr Graham's address for nearly an hour before he came to his famous peroration: "I am going to ask you to get up out of your seats, and come forward, and stand in front of

this platform to say symbolically - I want to open my heart to Christ."

Each person coming forward was contacted by a counsellor, a church member trained to handle the encounter.

Dr Graham's address was a blend of spiritual homily and personal anecdotes, with such personal asides as the fact that his wife had done the carpentry in the house they had jointly built. It was emotionally low key: there was no political message, although he referred in passing to poverty in Africa and the threat of nuclear war.

Mr Maurice Rowlandson, director of the Billy Graham (UK) Association, said: "It has been beyond our expectations."



Flying test: Amanda Morgan with Dr Ian Dalziel, her pilot, yesterday.

A day at an air show

Amanda Morgan, aged 14, who has a spinal tumour, was more worried about a flight to the United States than the complex life-saving operation she will undergo there.

So yesterday the RAF helped her get over her first flight nerves by treating her to a day at an air show - and then taking her for a flight

in a wartime passenger aircraft.

Amanda of Steam Mills, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, has a tumour running the length of her spine.

An American surgeon, Dr Fred Epstein of New York, has promised to carry out the operation free and an appeal fund has been set up to raise money

Heseltine's new plans for defence

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Mr Michael Heseltine presents to Parliament today his second annual statement on the defence estimate since he became Secretary of State for Defence 17 months ago.

The main thrust of the White Paper will concern his determination to get better value for the £17,000m which Britain is spending on defence this year. He will point to steps he has taken to sharpen competition for defence contracts and to studies which may lead to more defence work being given to private contractors, and to streamline the command and administrative structures of the armed forces.

Different strands of government policy are producing a conflict now over the placing of contracts for the construction of two Type-22 frigates for the Royal Navy. Three shipyards are believed to have bid for this work: Vospers Thornycroft near Portsmouth, Swan Hunter on Tyne and Cammell Laird on Merseyside.

Air Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is believed to be urging that the order be given to Vospers.

Heseltine off target, page 14

Jobs worry for Scots Tories

By Ronald Faux

Looming behind the rousing rhetoric and the insistent pledges that government policy was "winning through" were three issues causing unease among Scottish Conservatives at their conference in Perth at the weekend.

The first was that central Scotland seems likely to be hit soon by further unemployment if, as expected, the Leyland truck factory at Bathgate closes with the loss of 1,750 jobs.

Secondly, the Government admitted that it has failed to impress voters with its achievements and is unable to stop bad economic news from drowning the good. All the Prime Minister could do was to encourage individual enterprise, point optimistically at the growing number of foreign firms setting up in Scotland and admit that she could not say when the next opening in the market place would come.

Worst of all was the result of the recent local elections in Scotland, when the Conservatives were severely defeated. There are achievements for which the Conservatives believe they should be more widely congratulated: action against high-spending councils, sales of council houses.

Home improvements: 1

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In addition, the area has now

Home improvement grants have increased dramatically in the past five years with the active encouragement of the Government. Now the Government has turned the tap off by reducing the maximum available for a grant, and many local authorities have called a halt to new grants.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, Property Correspondent, describes now the policy has come unstuck.

lost its housing action status because of the council's failure to renew it.

These examples illustrate the "hit and miss" system of home improvement grants, the distribution of which depends on the council's policy and its ability to administer a scheme which has become increasingly complicated.

During the past few years the Government has given strong encouragement to local authorities to spend as much of their housing allocations as possible on renovation grants and has stimulated public demand for such grants as a means of improving the housing stock.

The incentive was increased in 1982 when the Government

raised grants to 90 per cent, but that has now been reduced again to 75 per cent, and the Government has also reduced housing allocations for local authorities. The higher rate still applies for those suffering financial hardship.

Announcing the reduction, Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, explained that by making the change the Government would be concentrating the limited amount of taxpayers' money on those in greatest need.

He said: "The maintenance and improvement of our housing stock is of the greatest long-term importance for all of us. But taxpayers' money is not unlimited."

He emphasized that the private sector, as well as the public sector, had a responsibility, and pointed out that in the 1970s spending on improvements and repairs to privately owned housing from loans or savings was estimated to be 30 times more than from grants.

The fact is that after stimulating demand, the Government is turning off the tap, leaving long

City may put pressure on Liverpool

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Liverpool, still without a budget six weeks into the financial year, faces a test of its creditworthiness in a fortnight as up to £250m worth of loans become due.

Liverpool City Council meets tomorrow but the Labour majority is threatening again to postpone the making of a 1984-85 budget.

That could leave the council treasurer, Mr Michael Redington, with the task of persuading City of London institutions and banks to renew loans in the absence of income from rates as security.

If he failed and had to repay loans with the revenue Liverpool is still receiving from rents and government grants, the district auditor would be likely to intervene.

The courts might rule such payments illegal and either force the council to levy a rate or begin procedures that could lead to the disqualification from office of councillors who approved the payments - the Labour leaders.

Officials from the Chester district audit office, part of the Audit Commission for Local Government, have moved into Liverpool's municipal buildings and have an instant view of its transactions.

One irony of Liverpool's unprecedented financial position is that until this week the council's cash flow has been healthier than it might have been if a rate had been set.

The Department of the Environment - on orders from Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State, who wants to avoid a confrontation with Labour militants - has paid rate support grants every two weeks. The grants are higher than they would be if any of the available budgets were passed.

In addition, tenants who pay a lump sum to the council for rent and rates are paying an amount for rates based on last year's figures.

That would qualify them for extra state incentives for business investment and for EEC regional funds. The chamber said that the London boroughs of Hackney, Islington, Lambeth, Newham, Southwark and Tower Hamlet had "the worst concentration of deprivation in the country."

The number of people in work fell faster in the London boroughs than on Merseyside in the 1970s, the chamber said. In the past five years those out of work who were classed as "long-term unemployed" had almost reached the Merseyside level of 47 per cent.

delays, with most local authorities and a complete stop to permission for new grants in many others.

The Institution of Environmental Health Officers has just conducted a survey of local authorities to find out how they are coping with the changed circumstances.

Grants fall into three main categories - intermediate grants, which are mandatory on local authorities and are designed for homes without basic amenities; repair grants (for pre-1919 dwellings) and improvement grants (for dwellings built before 1961), both of which are discretionary and are subject to a rateable value limit of £225, or £400 in London.

As the accompanying table shows, the total of home improvement grants has increased dramatically in the past five years, and for 1984-85 spending could remain at the same level as last year.

The institution's survey, in which 233 of the 402 housing authorities in England and Wales replied, shows how the system is being clogged up.

Tomorrow: The share-out

Overseas selling prices

Source: Department of the Environment

Source: Department of the Environment

Source: Department of the Environment



First refusal: A pair of blacks at the Royal Windsor Horse Show needing some encouragement to enter the water hazard. (Photographs: Ian Stewart).

Bomb blast husband accused of murder

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Police yesterday charged Graham Backhouse with the attempted murder of his wife, Margaret, aged 37, and the murder of his neighbour, Mr Colyn Bedale-Taylor.

He will face magistrates at Yate, near Bristol, today. It is understood he was arrested on Saturday night.

The charges came after a month of intense police inquiries in Horton, near Bristol into the incident in which Mrs Backhouse was severely injured by a car bomb as she reversed the family estate car out of the garage.

Three weeks later Mr Bedale-Taylor, aged 63, a retired personnel officer, died of two gunshot wounds he suffered at Mr Backhouse's 35-acre Widdow Hill Farm. Police had kept a constant watch on the farm since the bombing, which had been preceded by a hate campaign of anonymous telephone calls and poison pen letters apparently directed against Mr and Mrs Backhouse.

On one occasion the severed head of a lamb was discovered impaled on a farm fence post with a note underneath saying: "You next."

Last week Mrs Backhouse left a Bristol hospital, where she had undergone two major operations, to stay with her parents at Sedgley, near Wolverhampton.

Mr Backhouse, aged 43, issued a statement saying he needed to rest and did not wish to speak to anyone after leaving the hospital where he had been taken with knife wounds in the face suffered on the night Mr Bedale-Taylor died.

Nail gun found

A 200-year-old cast iron gun like a small cannon has been found embedded in the trunk of a tree at Roughon, Norfolk. The gun loaded with nails and ball bearings, was used to shoot poachers.

Credit card firms urged to pay Laker fare bills

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, has stepped into a long-running dispute over reimbursing travellers who lost money in the collapse of Laker Airways.

He is pressing particularly Barclaycard, the credit card subsidiary of Barclays Bank, to accept full legal liability for losses where credit card payment was involved.

More than two years after the Laker collapse, about 2,700 loss claims, amounting to about £1m, are believed to be outstanding, from an initial £3,600 claims involving about £9m. Perhaps half of the outstanding claims involve credit card transactions.

Many earlier claims have been met by travel industry bonding arrangements, of the Air Travel Reserve Fund, which steps in when bonds deposited by a tour operator prove insufficient to meet losses.

But differences arose between credit card companies such as Access and Barclaycard and the Tour Operators Study Group

which took over administration of demands under the Laker bonding arrangements. The tour operators' group wanted the card companies to meet what it saw as their legal obligations under the Consumer Credit Act, which lays a liability on card companies where suppliers of goods or services default.

The card companies argued that payments should come first from the travel industry's bonding and other arrangements specifically set up to protect travellers.

Later, Access, without admitting liability, reimbursed travellers who paid by credit card, up to the amount of the card transaction. It was only at the beginning of last month that Barclaycard said it would now be doing the same for anybody not being paid from elsewhere, while still not accepting legal liability.

But the Office of Fair Trading's view on card company liability is that it can extend to the whole of a

traveller's loss, even if only part of the transaction were paid by credit card.

Attempts by the Civil Aviation Authority to agree a charter with the card companies, the tour operators' group and the reserve fund to meet all claims on a "rough justice" payments basis have so far failed.

One of Sir Gordon's anxieties is that, if the situation cannot be clarified, travellers affected by a travel company collapse in the future could be even more exposed. There have been increasing worries that there might be too big a drain on the reserve fund's resources.

Barclaycard has made one new move. It is renegotiating terms with tour operators on card payments for holidays, insisting that the operators should have approved insurance cover to ensure cardholders are reimbursed for any losses.

That raises the question of how far consumers may eventually foot the bill for several layers of protection.

Banker's inquest to open

After a delay of 11 months the inquest opens today into the mysterious death of Dennis Skinner, the British banker who was said by his wife to be working in Moscow as a double agent for MI6.

Four diplomats from the British embassy in Moscow will attend the hearing in Croydon to give evidence. Mr Skinner, aged 54, a representative of the Midland Bank, was killed when he fell from his 11th floor apartment in Moscow last June.

The inquest opened although Dr McHugh agreed to hold the hearing in public no agreement was reached with the newspaper. As a result the High Court ruled in March that the inquest should proceed without delay and, calling Dr McHugh "a mistress of discourse", said her employer, the Greater London Council, should pay costs which could rise to £10,000.

Parent management of schools proposed

By Colin Hughes

Proposals to hand over the management of state-funded schools to boards of elected parents are published today by the Adam Smith Institute.

The institute's report supports speculation that the Government is considering measures to increase competition, selection and independence of schools within the state sector. Its document is known to be close to ministerial thinking.

The institute suggests that new boards, with a majority of parents and non-voting seats for the head teachers, teachers and local community representatives, would have broad powers to decide school curriculum, disciplinary measures and teachers' salaries.

The most radical proposal is for schools to be financed through a fixed grant for each pupil attending the school. Schools would be free to recruit new pupils and compete for applications from parents for

their child to enter a preferred school.

The institute says it would mean less successful schools having a "considerable incentive to raise standards and reduce costs in order to attract students". Schools with particular problems would get "small" additional grants above the grant for each pupil. How the money was spent would be up to parents, with national minimum standards in cleaning, maintenance, catering and teaching performance.

The report's ideas have become popular among the "radical right" as a way of restoring what it calls "consumer sovereignty" in education. The institute argues that the "consumers" of education, parents, children and employers, have almost no say in the service.

Education Policy and ASI Omega Report, ASI (Research) Ltd., Box 316, London SW1.

Deafness in pupils 'unnoticed'

More than 500,000 pupils are suffering learning difficulties because their deafness goes unnoticed, the National Deaf Children's Society says.

The society says in a statement published today that local research studies over the past two years suggest that the national problem of children who are "deaf and not deaf" is more widespread than is yet recognized.

Health visitor screening of children before they start school or during their early years demonstrably failed to pick up deaf and partially deaf children.

The society proposes that new medical testing equipment should be used on children to help to identify deafness before the child's educational development is damaged.

A new device called an impedance bridge audiometer, which tests for blockage in the middle ear, could be used at screening of preschool children

Solicitors split on advertising charges

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Proposals to allow advertising by solicitors provided it does not "bring the profession into disrepute" are expected to receive a stormy reception when they are debated before Law Society leaders in London next week.

The proposals, by a Law Society working party, envisage the possibility of solicitors advertising their charges.

On balance the view of England and Wales's 48,000 solicitors, particularly younger ones, is thought to favour the proposals as a necessary move in the fight to counter competition from banks, buildings societies and non-solicitor conveyancers when government proposals to end the conveyancing monopoly become law.

But some of the profession's older members are still opposed to any form of advertising, even to large displays of a firm's name outside the office, on the ground, as one put it, that "the best advertisement is the personal recommendation of a satisfied client".

The proposals will be debated at a meeting of local Law Society presidents and secretaries, and council members on May 23. They then go to the Law Society Council in June.

Mr Robert King, chairman of the working party on advertising, said he was hopeful that the proposals would be adopted. "We believe we detect a sea change in the profession on this issue."

Another council member said that from visits to several local law societies he thought that solicitors were divided. "Some say we must allow advertising immediately. Others argue we must not move in this direction too quickly".

A third council member, Mr

William Heath, said: "My impression from the profession is that broad brush advertising will be accepted. But I do not know whether price advertising will go through."

Many of the 60 council members have not made up their minds and their decision is expected to be influenced by views expressed at the debate. One said: "The advertising issue is one in which the debate itself will be of great significance in deciding people's views".

Solicitors will also debate proposals by a Law Society working party that they should enter the property market.

The working party concludes that if the Law Society mounts campaigns in support of solicitors entering property selling, the profession "may have its best chance of avoiding a serious and irreversible loss of income" and also of opening up the possibility of organizing a full range of house-buying services.

Of various possible ventures the working party concludes the best might be solicitors setting up an estate agency conducted by a company limited by guarantee of which only solicitors were shareholders.

Such a company has been set up by solicitors in Glasgow and been "very successful" in competing with other estate agents and securing a share of the market for solicitors, it says.

But another working party comes out against the idea of solicitors' building society and says it would pose "insuperable difficulties". More than 200 solicitors have pledged support for such a proposal and are intending to press ahead in spite of the working party's views.

Doctors meet to review test-tube baby research

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Doctors who have pioneered the test-tube baby technique, enabling infertile women to give birth successfully to more than 2,500 babies worldwide, meet this week to report progress in their research since the first child resulted from fertilization of a human egg outside the body on July 25, 1978.

The conference in Helsinki is essentially a medical research forum to review the technical options presented by the procedure - and particularly the storage of frozen embryos and embryo transfers involving donors.

The blockage or absence of the normal passageway for an egg to be transported from the ovary to the uterus - the cause of infertility - is estimated to occur in more than one million women in Britain, the United States, Australia and the European countries in which *in vitro* fertilization has become regarded as an established medical technique.

The technology is simple in theory, as is the medical motivation of removing a limitation on normal healthy life. However, the technology is complicated in practice and so are the ethics of motivation.

A team from the Centre for Reproductive Biology at Edinburgh University has raised one of the key issues of motivation in a letter to the latest issue of *The Lancet*. They raise the subject "What potential ovum donors think".

They say much of their research depends on eggs obtained from women requesting sterilization.

Recently, the Edinburgh team surveyed 55 patients referred for sterilization. One in four agreed to participate in research, eight said they might have but were uneasy about stopping oral contraception for two months, which the research demanded; and 15 did not wish to participate for reasons ranging from a sense of unease to strong moral objections.



Colin Evans

Marie Payne: Lorry driver is remanded

A lorry driver, Mr Colin James Evans, aged 44, appeared in court at Barking, Essex on Saturday charged with the murder of Marie Payne, aged four.

Mr Evans, of Russell Street, Reading, was remanded in custody until Wednesday. Police confirmed officially that the body found in Epping Forest on Friday was that of Marie Payne. She disappeared from her home at Dagenham Essex, 15 months ago.

The child's parents, Brenda and John Payne, were not in court. They had been advised by the police to keep away because it was felt the proceedings would be too upsetting for them.

Detectives were digging in the back garden of a house in Western Elms Avenue, Reading on Saturday. The house is divided into bedsitters.

Flavour main factor for tea drinkers

By John Young

More than 70 per cent of all the tea we drink is now made from tea-bags, according to a new survey by Taylor Nelson and Associates. The trend is likely to continue, as those who prefer the traditional loose-packed leaves are mainly older people.

But flavour is still seen as the most important factor, and price the least important, the survey shows.

Tea is regarded as more refreshing than coffee and a more suitable family drink, but coffee is more stimulating and convenient and more "socially acceptable" when entertaining.

To the relief of the hard pressed dairy industry, most people still take milk in both tea and coffee, but sugar has become suspect on health grounds. The British Sugar Corporation, which is the monopoly buyer for all home produced beet, is launching a new £1,000,000 advertising campaign "to give sugar its proper recognition".

Unrefined brown sugars have gained a steadily increasing share of the declining market.

41.9%

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SDP COUNCIL

Defence budget 'to decline'

Owen attacks Trident 'millstone' on defence

From Tony Hodges, Edinburgh

Conservative policies would inevitably lead to a cut in European defence expenditure in real terms by 1986-87, Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, told the Council for Social Democracy meeting in Edinburgh.

The Government, he said, was forecasting only a 0.5 per cent rise in expenditure on European defence, which is actually declining in real terms, because if inflation goes above 3.4 per cent there will be an absolute cut in the defence budget.

"That is not a contribution this country ought to be making to the greater conventional strength of the European countries. That is not the way to achieve less reliance on nuclear weapons or to take a first step towards a no first use of nuclear weapons strategy. Nor is it the way to ensure peace and prosperity in Europe."

"Why is that happening? The

reason is the Trident programme which is now hanging like a millstone around the neck of this country.

The estimate of the cost of Trident was £9,500m, but taking likely inflation into account it would probably be nearer £11,500m.

The Government claimed Trident amounted to only a small proportion of the entire defence budget, some 3 per cent, but it was a crucial factor amounting to some 7.5 per cent of all military spending in the years at the end of the Eighties and the beginning of the Nineties.

Expenditure on Trident could be achieved only at a damaging price in terms of conventional defence.

Although he would like to see the savings from the cancellation of Trident channelled to the health service, employment and the social services, some part would have to be used to improve conventional defences.

"If you want European security on conventional weapons you cannot afford an all-singing, all-dancing Trident super-power nuclear deterrent," he said.

Britain could not afford Trident and it was not the right priority.

Dr Owen was opening the main debate of the two-day council, in which it was asked to take note of but not to amend, the joint statement agreed with the Liberal Party as the Alliance platform for the coming European Parliament election campaign.

The council did so, but added a rider regretting that its members were not consulted about the details of policies before they were agreed with the Liberals.

Of Europe's future prospects, Dr Owen said: "There is no future for little Britain. There is everything to be said for a strong and united Europe. That is where our destiny lies."

Mr Clive Hadley, prospective European candidate for South-East England, said the Alliance was committed to the European Community in a way that their opponents never were. Only last June Labour was committed to withdrawal from the Community within the lifetime of a Parliament, and the position had not changed in spite of the party's new leadership. They were still constitutionally committed to withdrawal and deeply hostile to the Community.

The Conservative Party saw the Community as a battleground for British interests. Mrs Margaret Thatcher's bossy and bullying style had united Britain's nine parties, who did not like to be treated like defeated Argentines.

Mrs Celia Goodheart, European candidate for Northamptonshire, said the party should appeal to the electorate's sense of fair play. People were upset that Britain was the only member state not to be using a fair electoral system because of Mrs Thatcher's veto. The party should also point out that the Conservatives sat alone in the European Parliament. The Alliance were the ones who would participate fully.

The council endorsed proposals agreed with the Liberal Party for a Scottish Parliament with exclusive power to legislate on exclusively Scottish matters and with independent revenue-raising powers. It also confirmed its commitment to a Welsh Parliament as a long-term aim.

Mr David Marquand, chairman of the SDP working party on decentralization said that there was a crisis of over-centralization in our system of government, of which the Government's legislation to abolish the metropolitan authorities was evidence.

In a brief debate, the council unanimously passed an emergency resolution calling on the Government and all the political parties to respond constructively to the report of the New Ireland Forum.

But a second motion, strongly critical of Mr Arthur Scargill, was withdrawn at the suggestion of Mrs Shirley Williams, the president, after it was criticized by several speakers as being one-sided.

The second motion was moved by Mr Douglas Eden, European candidate for South Yorkshire, who said there was a reign of terror among miners in South Yorkshire under Mr Scargill's leadership. The union was run by democratic centralism, a form of ruthless

organization more akin to the Soviet system than to British democracy.

Mr Richard Bristow (Hillingdon) asked by what right he had been stopped and checked by the police when on an innocent journey. "Our ancient freedoms are more important than Scargill and strikes. We must beat Scargill with the law we have got otherwise the price we have to pay is our children may come to regret it." (Loud applause.)

Mr Mike Day (Sheffield) told the conference that there were possibly tens of thousands of people in the industrial North who thought Mr Scargill was on the right track, although they might not agree with everything he said.

They might deplore his egotistical drive for personal power and the tactics he used, but thought he was on the right track when talking of employment, jobs and people.

The Alliance would seek to build a European pillar within the Atlantic alliance which can express



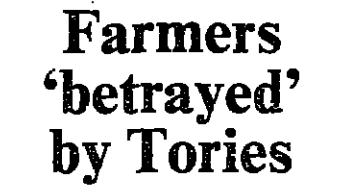
Dr Owen: missiles



Mrs Williams: miners



Mr MacLennan: farmers



Mr MacLennan: farmers

The Government's sharp change of direction in farming policy would extend the recession from urban areas to the poorer agricultural areas. Mr Robert MacLennan, the SDP agriculture spokesman, told the council yesterday.

Only a year ago Mr Peter Walker when he was Minister of Agriculture, was boasting in the Commons that Britain was "becoming far more aggressive and acquiring a proper share not just of the domestic market but of the overseas market", he said. Mr Walker had particularly urged the dairy industry to achieve a greater share of the market.

"No wonder the farmers of this country consider they have been betrayed," Mr MacLennan said. "Quite suddenly with the general election behind them the Government's message is cynically altered."

"Mrs Thatcher calls for painful readjustment and Michael Jopling says we must accept his instructions and throw the gears into reverse. Agriculture is not an industry that can withstand sharp lurches of policy."

An amendment calling for measures to protect small dairy farmers from the brunt of the EEC cutbacks in milk production received unanimous support.

Mr Richard Bristow (Hillingdon) asked by what right he had been stopped and checked by the police when on an innocent journey. "Our ancient freedoms are more important than Scargill and strikes. We must beat Scargill with the law we have got otherwise the price we have to pay is our children may come to regret it." (Loud applause.)

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The Alliance believes that the present highly dangerous world situation underlines the urgent need for the members of the Community to act in a more united way in world affairs.

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ALLIANCE MANIFESTO

Community 'in grave danger'

Alliance urges Europe-wide strategy for recovery

Among the main points of the manifesto are:

There is now a real danger that Europe will not be equipped to benefit from the gradual recovery in world trade. A divided Europe is in grave danger of being blown out of many growth sectors.

The Alliance proposes a co-ordinated programme for economic expansion and job-creation. We call for the abolition of the remaining barriers to a true common market for trade. We want more investment in new technologies.

The Alliance wants to see a concerted Community programme for economic recovery. Particular emphasis should be put upon measures which promote jobs and investment. Finance should also be provided for investment in infrastructure: road, rail, tunnel, port and other facilities.

Britain should become a full member of the European Monetary System (EMS).

We support the rapid implementation of the next planned step in the EMS, the creation of a European Monetary Reserve Fund.

greater co-operation in basic research.

We support the rapid implementation of the next planned step in the EMS, the creation of a European Monetary Reserve Fund.

a build-up of the aerospace and electronics industries.

coordinated Community measures to help restructure industries in difficulties, such as steel and textiles.

Community investment in major transport links, including a Channel tunnel.

the rapid achievement of a real common market in Europe by:

(a) the removal of national regulations which impede access to the service sector, including insurance and banking;

(b) common codes of practice agreed as quickly as possible in fields such as health and safety;

(c) the development of a truly European market for public purchasing in areas like telecommunications, with Community-wide standards in industries such as electronics;

(d) the development of a unified European-based telecommunications infrastructure - integrated cable, radio and satellite;

(e) the elimination of frontier controls and barriers which restrict the free movement of goods between member states.

In the short run technological change can mean unemployment and disruption to people's lives. The Community needs to co-ordinate in their efforts to deal with these problems. The Alliance proposes:

a substantial increase in resources going to the Regional and Social Funds.

a full range of choices for young people leaving school, offering them training, education and employment opportunities, with a link to continuing and adult education schemes, and retraining, particularly in the use of new technologies;

the right to have a say in decisions at work.

Community competition laws should be used to check the abuse of economic power by big business, multinationals and nationalized industries.

Over the longer term we should aim for a Community budget which seeks explicitly to transfer funds from richer to poorer regions.

A larger Community budget need not mean net increases in British taxation.

The Alliance supports an agreement for reform of the budget:

linking revenue raised to the proportionate wealth of each member state;

reform of the common agricultural policy so that agriculture becomes a smaller proportion of the budget;

growth in the Community's



The SDP-Liberal Alliance today publishes *Let's Get Europe Working Together*, its manifesto for the European Parliamentary elections on June 14.

Europe's distinctive interests in defence and disarmament, reduce Europe's dependence on nuclear weapons and take a greater share of responsibility for our own defence.

We must strengthen Europe's conventional forces through:

integration of command structures, closer collaboration in training and standardization of equipment;

coordinating and pooling defence research and development and closer coordination in procurement.

We should reduce Europe's dependence on nuclear weapons by moving towards "no first use" of nuclear weapons;

the creation by Nato of a 150km battlefield nuclear weapon free zone in central Europe which could provide the basis for negotiations with the Russians on a wider verifiable nuclear weapon free zone.

Europe should launch the following initiatives:

the inclusion of the British and French independent nuclear deterrents in East-West arms reduction talks;

suspend further deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles to give the Soviet Union an opportunity to come back to the conference table;

mutual reductions of conventional forces in Europe;

the creation of a register of sales of arms to countries and ending sales of arms to regimes which persistently violate human rights;

a ban on the production and use of chemical weapons.

The Alliance believes that Europe must work together with the developing countries of the world. We urge:

Community members to meet the UN target for aid of 0.7 per cent GNP within five years;

that aid should be targeted mainly on the poorest countries and the poorest in all countries;

that more aid should be channelled through non-governmental organisations because of their effectiveness;

policies which encourage self-reliance and self-sufficiency in food production, and long-term guaranteed prices for those few world's primary products, including food;

income for new common policies, particularly for industry and significant increases in the regional and social funds.

The Alliance proposes the following reforms in the CAP:

establish a common European agricultural policy, set in the light of world and European demand, and translating these into quotas where this is appropriate. The question of making these quotas tradable should be examined. Production in excess of these targets would be sold at world prices;

relate guaranteed prices to quality particularly to reduce cereal support prices;

vary the level of support so as to discourage the large factory-type of producers whose operations provide too few jobs;

use agricultural structural funds to help the young, new entrants to farming and the small family farm - particularly for those in difficult areas such as hills and uplands;

halt unfair assistance to farmers by individual member states;

phase out the monetary compensation amounts as a step towards the creation of a genuine common market in food.

the European Development Fund should be part of a Community budget so that it can be scrutinized by the European Parliament;

the Community to work with the third world countries to develop technologies appropriate to their needs.

the protection of the environment and economic prosperity need not be mutually conflicting goals. Europe must tackle the twin evils of poverty and unemployment but this must be through a "growth" that is compatible with and not at the expense of the environment.

Within the Community we should:

reduce our dependence on oil by shifting the balance of Community spending on energy research and development towards a more efficient use of energy, energy conservation and the development of environmentally benign alternative energy sources;

alter the structural policy of the CAP so as to improve environmental conditions on improvement grants;

allocate funds for the development of conservation-compatible products;

encourage recycling, reuse and the development of longer-life products;

require mandatory environmental impact statements for all major industrial, agricultural and transport projects and for all major projects receiving Community funds.

We would extend the role of the Community in controlling air and water pollution, particularly at source, through:

more vigorous efforts to control acid rain and other trans-frontier pollutants;

leadership in developing technological research and development methods for substantially reducing noise pollution;

the member countries of the Community share a common heritage of human rights and are parties to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). But the citizens of the Community need stronger protection against the misuse of power by public authorities, whether at Community or national level.

Actions should be taken to strengthen the effectiveness of the ECHR, and to establish a Community charter of political, social and economic rights for the citizen.

People should be entitled to a common European citizenship and passport, providing free movement and equal treatment throughout the Community.

The UK and all member states should:

no longer impose time limits on acceptance of the jurisdiction of the European Court and Commission of Human Rights;

secure the rights and freedoms of the European Convention on Human Rights to everyone within their jurisdiction;

accept the obligations of the Convention to the fullest extent possible, and to guarantee further rights and freedoms.

The Community institutions should formally accept and become bound to comply with the European Convention.

The procedures of the European Court and Commission should be streamlined.

A democratic Europe

It is in the British interest for the Community to be a more democratic institution. We want to streamline the Community's structure and its methods of decision-making.

Co-decision-making between Council and Parliament should be more closely linked to protect British interests than continuing to depend on British votes in the Council. We believe that:

the first urgent reform is that Parliament and the Council should jointly exercise legislative authority in the Community;

the practice of requiring and the frequent use of the veto based on "spiritual" claims of vital national interests have a great harm to the Community. The veto in the Council must be severely restricted;

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Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING) POWER GROUP-PROJECTS ENGINEERING PURCHASE DEPTT

INVITATION FOR ENLISTMENT AND PRE-QUALIFICATION OF VENDORS ON GLOBAL BASIS

Applications are invited by undersigned on behalf of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. for prequalification and enlistment of vendors on global basis for equipment required for Super Thermal Power Stations incorporating units of 500 MW rating being installed by National Thermal Power Corporation.

- A. LIST OF ITEMS
- | No. | Description |
|-----|---|
| 1. | Sponge Ball Type Condenser on-load Tube Cleaning System suitable for 500 MW unit with strainer section size of 2200 NB. |
| 2. | Rubber Expansion Joints for Condenser Cooling Water Lines 2200 NB size. Pressure balance with tie rods and without tie rods. Design pressure 3 to 5 kg/cm ² (g). |
| 3. | Turbine Lube Oil Purification System (Capacity 7500 lph) including dirty/clean oil tanks, Lube Oil Pumps, Piping, Valves and Instruments. |
| 4. | CO ₂ , H ₂ & N ₂ Gas Cylinders (11.25 m ³ , 6.23 m ³ , 6.23 m ³ at NTP, working pressure 125 bar) |
| 5. | Steam Pressure Reducing Valve and Desuper-heater for Turbine Wet steam heating system. Capacity 25 T/hr. Inlet pressure 16 kg/cm ² , 210°C. Outlet pressure 1.5 to 10 kg/cm ² with 12% wetness. |
| 6. | Control Fluids non-combustible for Turbine Control System. Flash point 235°C (min.). Density at 15°C 1.25 gm/cm ³ (max.) |

Total capability in communications.

The technological revolution in direct marketing has begun and the National Networks division of British Telecom is busy providing the communications links that are vital to its progress.

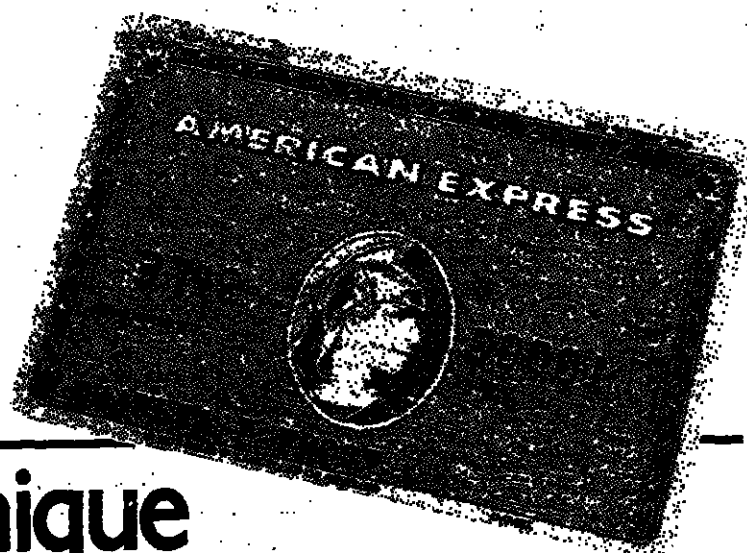
"Off the screen" marketing is already in being through Prestel.

In the Midlands, Homelink enables subscribers to do their shopping, their banking, to book holidays and pay bills without leaving their own firesides.

A key element in Homelink and other such developments is National Networks Packet SwitchStream (PSS) - which provides digital data transmission of the highest quality at a fraction of the cost of private leased lines.



TODAY: MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES



Unique and award-winning

American Express makes the integrity and economy of PSS data lines part of its marketing mix through an ingenious and award-winning programme.

A high proportion of Cardmembers travel regularly by air. American Express reaches out to them and to prospects through its unique SkyGuide* service. This makes publicly available through Prestel virtually up-to-the minute flight arrival and departure information from the 12 leading UK international airports.

SkyGuide works 24 hours

a day, 365 days a year. It monitors some 700,000 aircraft movements a year, covering around 57 million passengers. Prestel subscribers can access this valuable information for just 10p plus the cost of a local telephone call. And they are currently doing so 100,000 times a month.

The ingenious SkyGuide programme has won awards from the British Computer Society for applications, and from the European Direct Marketing Association for an outstanding contribution to the direct marketing of high-tech products.

It enables the American Express viewdata computer in Brighton to monitor and reproduce in a standard format, flight information that appears in disparate forms at each airport. Both data integrity and overall cost dictated

the choice of Packet SwitchStream for the vital link between the airports and Brighton.

An elegant example of total capability in communications - via National Networks.

*SkyGuide is the business name of American Express Flight Information Display Service.

NEXT: EXPERTISE

ANY QUESTIONS?

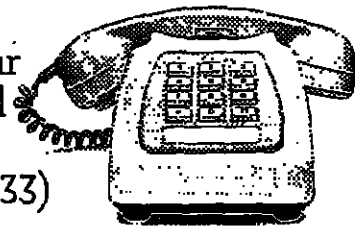
Phone us on 0272 293586. Or clip this coupon to your business card or letterhead and return it to: National Networks, Freeport (BS3333) Bristol BS1 4YP.

Please tell us more about National Networks and its services for business.

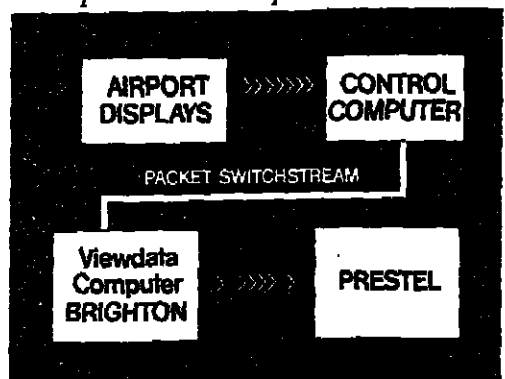
NAME

POSITION

SIGNATURE



SkyGuide block diagram: PSS data links provide the airport connections.



British

TELECOM
National Networks

The power behind the button.

Bodies of bus hijackers exhumed by Israeli commission of inquiry

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Three killed by troops

The bodies of two of the four young Palestinians killed after they hijacked an Israeli civilian bus a month ago have been exhumed from graves in the occupied Gaza Strip, in preparation for official autopsies ordered by the Defence Ministry commission investigating the mysterious cause of their deaths.

The commission was appointed after mounting pressure from politicians and the press sparked by widespread speculation inside Israel that one or both men may have been killed by members of the security forces after being captured alive and led away after the bus was stormed. The two other hijackers were killed instantly in the fight and their bodies were carried off the vehicle.

The controversy caused by the disclosure of the existence of photographs showing two of the hijackers being led away from the crippled bus has been overtaken by the political storm resulting from the uncovering of a Jewish terrorist underground organization allegedly responsible for a four-year campaign against Arabs in the occupied West Bank.

Apart from news about the exhumations, very little has been released about the work of the two-man investigation commission, which is headed by reserve General Meir Zorea. It is a ministerial affair and the publication of all or any of its findings is solely dependent on the decision of Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, who appointed it.

Last week, Mr Arens was roundly criticized by *Haaretz*, Israel's leading independent newspaper, for the slow working of the commission, which was only set up two weeks after the incident it is investigating. Subsequently he pledged in a speech that its report would be completed soon, but did not commit himself to a time.

It is known that senior Cabinet members are worried about the effect that a verdict against the Israeli security forces could have on the lives of the handful of Israeli prisoners now in the hands of fringe Palestinian groups.

This argument has been successfully used by the Government to prevent sections of the Israeli press from printing all the details which they gathered about the case. One newspaper, *Hadashot*, was suspended for four days for

even revealing that the commission had been set up.

Although names were not given yesterday, it is reliably understood that the name of one of the two Arabs whose body has been exhumed is Majdi Abu Jumaa, aged 18, who was pictured by a photographer from *Hadashot* being led alive and well from the bus in the custody of two security men in civilian clothing.

The dramatic photograph, which is of good quality and shows apparent head wounds on the hijacker, has never been published in Israel itself, because of the ban imposed by the military censor, whose edicts have ruled out the publication of any details about the fate of the two hijackers.

Abu Jumaa, along with the other three hijackers, was buried under Army supervision on the night of Sunday, April 15, in the Gaza Strip. His body was identified by an uncle who claimed later that the head was covered in matted blood, although no such wounds were visible in the photograph taken as he left the bus.

While most doubt surrounds Abu Jumaa's fate, the Israeli magazine *Haolam Hazeh* (This World) has published photographs of another Arab, who has not yet been positively identified, it claimed he was the second hijacker who left the bus alive. In the blurred print, only published after the magazine's lawyers had threatened a High Court case against the censor, he could be seen being led away by three soldiers, including one holding a large pistol.

Fear haunts Filipino voters

From David Watts, San Miguel, Tarrac, Philippines

The feeling of hope that Senator Benigno Aquino's death might bring political change to his home province of Tarrac is gone.

Instead there is fear and intimidation of voters. There is none of the festive air that usually lights up Filipinos at election time and brings a determination to opposition rallies in Manila two hours' drive to the south.

The opposition candidate campaigning from San Miguel, Mr Yap, has cabled the authorities in Manila calling for the arrest of officers from the civilian home defence forces who have been going from house to house, armed with M16 rifles, threatening people who show no enthusiasm for the ruling New Society Movement (KBL).

This is the first election held since martial law was lifted. But the people's fears are still there. You can see the psychological effect.

"You can't blame them, they're *barrio* people. These soldiers are assigned here. They're supposed to protect these people. How can they disobey their orders..." said Mr Yap.

It is a story repeated in many places throughout the Philippines before polling today.

The prospect of Mr Yap making a dent in the well-oiled KBL machine is distant.

Since the election campaign started it has been a story of bought votes and coercion. In the town of San Manuel, with 8,000 voters, Mr Yap, as representative of the principle opposition party in the district, could not even find anyone willing to observe the polls to ensure that there is no cheating.

Rockets hit Beirut as Cabinet splits

From Our Correspondent Beirut

Deadly mortar and artillery exchanges rocked Beirut over the weekend as Christian and Muslim ministers in the new Cabinet were reported to be divided over two sensitive issues: reorganization of the Lebanese Army and relations with Israel.

The fighting started late on Saturday afternoon along the Green Line that bisects the city, and escalated after dark to encompass widely spread residential neighbourhoods. Police said that 18 people were killed and at least 70 were wounded in areas as disparate as Ramlet el-Baida, a Muslim neighbourhood south-west of the Capital, and Dbaye, a Christian community more than 10 miles to the east.

Fighting resumed yesterday with heavy rocket barrages on the Christian El Rumanneh neighbourhood adjacent to the Green Line killing one man and injuring two women. Retaliatory fire kept some families in west Beirut in basements.

Lebanese militias often express their displeasure over political issues by shooting and the weekend battles were believed to have stemmed from disagreements at the first two Cabinet sessions last Thursday and Friday.

The Cabinet, under its Prime Minister, Mr Rashid Karame, did manage to agree on the broad outlines of its policy agenda, which must be submitted to Parliament for a vote of confidence.



Wreckage of war: Rescue workers examining the shell of a car in west Beirut.

religious factions in Lebanon — with a rotating chief.

The Christians argue for the status quo.

Mr Berri hinted during his weekend news conference that a Cabinet-ordered study of the Israeli "Hassan" office still operating east of Beirut would result in its closure. Such a move is opposed by the right-wing Christian "Lebanese forces" militia, which has

received arms and training from Israel.

As the military and political disagreements erupted, hundreds of west Beirut children joined a march for peace on Saturday. Their parade, which stretched for six blocks along the Hamra district shopping street, drew applause from onlookers and showers of rice — a traditional Lebanese greeting — from people on balconies.

Olympic crisis: Emigrés claim success for campaign

US attack on Soviet boycott

From Mohsin Ali Washington

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, has attacked the Soviet Union sharply for its withdrawal from the Los Angeles Olympics and its treatment of Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physicist.

"The Soviet decision to boycott the Los Angeles Olympics was completely unjustified. It surprised and clearly dismayed even their closest allies," Mr Shultz told a business council in Hot Springs, Virginia on Saturday.

Mr Shultz commented that the allegations on which the Russians ostensibly based their decision were "flimsy and false". He added that the United States had met all its obligations under the Olympic charter and had bent over backwards to meet the Russians' legitimate concerns.

Those included assurances that there would be no anti-Soviet demonstrations in the Olympic facilities and villages, and the granting of permission for charter flights by the Soviet airline, Aeroflot.

Mr Shultz said that the Russians were trying to "drag their allies into isolation with them" by forcing them to boycott the games.

He also criticized the Soviet decision to walk out of the nuclear arms control talks late last year.

President Reagan tried to help his wife to go West for medical treatment the Russians cut him off from the outside world, bringing false charges against his wife and even refusing to allow her to go to Moscow. His life was being trifled with and the whole world must be concerned, Mr Shultz said.

Mr Shultz said that President Reagan's visit to China last month proved that the United States could maintain cooperative relations with societies ideologically very different from itself.

● LOS ANGELES: China will attend this summer's Olympics, games officials announced (Reuters reports). They had previously refused to disclose which countries had formally agreed to take part, saying that it was inappropriate to do so in advance of a deadline for acceptance on June 2. Taiwan will also compete.

● VIENNA: Afghanistan has decided not to attend the games.

Scaring off the Russian bear

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

While most of Los Angeles continues to mourn the Soviet decision not to compete in the Olympic Games this summer, one group here is euphoric. The Ban the Soviets Coalition, an amalgam of ethnic, émigré and right-wing, American anti-communist groups, was taking delighted credit for the Soviet pull-out.

"We were eyeball to eyeball with the Soviets, and the Russian bear not only blinked, it turned tail and ran," said Mr Valdis Pavlovskis, president of the Baltic-American Freedom League, a coalition member.

Mr David Balsiger, director of the coalition, agreed: "We are the moving force, no doubt, behind the Soviets' not coming."

They are convinced that the Russians made their decision for fear of mass defections from their Olympic team once they were exposed to freedom, California-style. The problem, as one leading American columnist put it, was "keeping them in Murnansk after they've seen Malibu".

While others looked for more complex reasons for the Soviet decision — revenge for the US boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games, a desire to hurt President Reagan's reelection chances; perhaps even a fear that they could not top their performances in winning 80 medals at the Moscow games — the anti-Soviet groups are convinced it was their preparation to "welcome" the Russians that scared them away.

And prepare they had — with billboards along the main freeways and banners to trail from aircraft flying over Los Angeles during the games, all in Russian encouraging Russians to defect with a network of one hundred safe houses in which defectors could be hidden; toll-free telephone numbers for would-be defectors; and a phalanx of lawyers who had donated their services to help defectors.

They had also planned to distribute some 500,000 leaflets, and arranged for "demonstrations" by some 10,000

protesters against the Russians.

Mr Balsiger said confidently: "We expected from one hundred to two hundred defectors."

There is little doubt the Soviet Union was well aware of their activities. Its apparent failure to get an assurance from the US State Department that Americans would not accept defectors certainly must have played a part in the decision announced by Tass last week.

A State Department spokesman explained: "If they expected us to join them in some kind of police state they were out of luck."

The Ban the Soviets Coalition, hitherto regarded as part of California's lunatic fringe, is taking full advantage of its moment in the spotlight and claiming moral victory, said Tony Mazeika of the Baltic American Freedom League.

By withdrawing from the games "the Soviets have admitted they do not command the loyalty of their own people — not their athletes, not their coaches, not even their KGB spies".

Kaunda tries to save Namibia conference

Lusaka (Reuters) — President Kaunda of Zambia was locked in negotiations yesterday in an attempt to salvage an acrimonious all-party conference on Namibia (South West African) independence.

Conference sources said that President Kaunda and his co-chairman, Mr Willie van Niekerk, South Africa's Administrator-General for Namibia, hoped to find enough common ground between opposing delegations to justify a joint final communiqué.

The closed-door conference has brought together the black nationalist guerrilla movement Swapo (South West African People's Organization), a South African delegation led by Mr van Niekerk, and representatives of Namibian internal parties.

Talks were extended into a third unscheduled day with Swapo giving warning of the circumstances acquired a new meaning: "Our struggle is now vindicated."

It has been evident for some time that Pasok was not the old Centre Union. The strongly anti-Communist coalition pieced together by Mr Papandreu's own father in the early 1960s to dislodge the right wing which had firmly entrenched itself in power after the war.

Mr Papandreu himself told the congress that Pasok, in the absence of a socialist tradition in this country, had its roots in EAM the Communist-controlled wartime National Liberation Front. After the war, EAM was denied its rightful political role because the Communist uprising and the right wing oppression on that ensued left little room for ideological nuances. These frustrated patriots and their resentful

Swapo in the event of independence, are regarded as South African puppets by the guerrillas.

Long-standing hostility between Swapo and the internal political leaders surfaced at the conference.



Mr Nujoma: Swapo leader gives a warning

Iran poll results annulled

By Habib Teimourian

Iran's Council of Guardians, an assembly of senior theologians which supervises elections and vets Parliamentary Bills for adherence to Islamic rules, declared in Tehran yesterday that it had nullified the election results of 20 parliamentary constituencies obtained on April 15. This was the first round of elections to Iran's Islamic Majlis (Parliament). The final round will be held on Thursday, May 17.

Hojatolislam Emami Kashani, a spokesman for the Elections Supervisory Commission of the Council, told Tehran Radio's home news service that the elections in those constituencies had taken place in an "unhealthy atmosphere" and that their winners would therefore be "unworthy" if allowed to enter the Majlis building as members of parliament.

BAHRAIN: A Kuwaiti tanker passing through the Gulf on its way from Kuwait to Britain with more than 76,000 tonnes of fuel oil aboard, was hit yesterday by a missile fired from a warplane, the owners said.

Insurgents kill priest in Uganda ambush

Kampala (AP) — A French Roman Catholic priest, Father Joseph-Marie Maillard, died in a Kampala hospital at the weekend after being shot by unidentified gunmen north-west of the capital last Thursday.

Church officials said Father Maillard was delivering food to destitute parishes near Miryana, about 40 miles outside Kampala, when gunmen shot at his car.

Areas north and west of Kampala have been insecure because of clashes between government troops and guerrillas fighting against President Milton Obote.

Mitterrand low in poll ratings

Paris (AP) — President Mitterrand has received the lowest approval rating in the republic's 26-year history, according to a poll conducted for the weekly *Journal de Dimanche*. Only 30 per cent of those questioned were "satisfied" while 54 per cent said they were "dissatisfied" with his performance.

Italians smash peace camps

Rome — Italian police have dismantled three peace camps on the outskirts of the US cruise missile base at Comiso in Sicily and arrested nine people, including a British woman (John Earle, London).

She was named as Jill Allison Howard, aged 21. The others were Gillian Smith, aged 26 from New Zealand, Vikki Wise, aged 20 from Australia, three West German and three Italian men.

Civilian rule

Bissau (AFP) — Guinea-Bissau is set to return to civilian rule today with the military ruler for the past three and a half years, General João Bernardo Vieira, expected to become constitutional head of state.

Duel challenge

Montevideo (AFP) — The former Uruguayan Vice-President, Señor Alberto Abdala, has challenged a journalist to a duel for writing an article about him which he considered offensive. Duelling is not illegal in Uruguay.

Citroën sit-in

Aubay-Sous-Bois, France (AP) — Militant workers occupied the giant Citroën assembly plant for the third day yesterday in a protest over planned reductions in the workforce.

Major shot

Guatemala City (AP) — An Army major was shot dead in an ambush while driving on a highway leading to the capital.

£15m draw

New York (AP) — Record sales helped push the biggest lottery jackpot in North American history to \$22.1 (£15m) as last-minute players flocked up to buy tickets. No one has picked the winning six-number combination in the last three draws.

Dog's delight

Nice (AP) — The pampered rich of the Côte d'Azur now have a gourmet restaurant for dogs, featuring three-course meals costing up to £10 and served on real china.

King's wreath

Moscow (AP) — King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain visited the metro and laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in the Soviet central Asian city of Tashkent yesterday.

Tug of woe

Lenzburg, Switzerland (AP) — An attempt by 880 people to set a record for the tug-of-war ended in chaos and injury when the 30-year, one-inch nylon rope, having slipped through the crowd and injuring 24 people.

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Remember, if your circumstances change you must still tell your local social security office. Do not write, or send your order book, to the issuing authority shown in the book.

Issued by the Department of Health and Social Security

Greece vetoes deployment of Nato missiles

From Our Correspondent Athens

Greece has vetoed a Nato plan to deploy Harpoon missiles in Turkish naval bases because it might upset the military balance between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean.

This was disclosed by Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, during the first party congress of the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), which ended in Athens last night.

The Greek move came just as President Karamanlis of Greece and President Evren of Turkey exchanged messages of goodwill, expressing hopes for improved relations, on the occasion of the accreditation of Mr Nazmi Akimian, hitherto the Turkish Foreign Ministry's spokesman, as ambassador to Greece.

Pasok declares its radical allegiance

From Mario Modiano Athens

Only two guests at the first congress of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) which closed in Athens last night, drew ovations that equalled the party's charismatic leader and Prime Minister.

They were General Markos Mavrotas, veteran commander of the defeated Communist insurgents in the Greek civil war, and Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

Each reflected an important facet of Pasok's emerging identity. If the congress, long overdue for a ten-year-old party, served any purpose other than to confirm Pasok as a one-man party, this was to allow its true ideology to come to the surface. After 30 months in power the Greek Socialists feel confident enough to call a spade a spade.

It was not simply a case of clenched fists and radical jargon. The 2,400 party "comrades" who packed the amphitheatre under the Athens Olympic stadium, stood up and cheered when it was announced that General Markos was present. Then they burst into a Pasok slogan which was the meaning: "Our struggle is now vindicated."

It has been evident for some time that Pasok was not the old Centre Union. The strongly anti-Communist coalition pieced together by Mr Papandreu's own father in the early 1960s to dislodge the right wing which had firmly entrenched itself in power after the war.

Mr Papandreu himself told the congress that Pasok, in the absence of a socialist tradition in this country, had its roots in EAM the Communist-controlled wartime National Liberation Front. After the war, EAM was denied its rightful political role because the Communist uprising and the right wing oppression on that ensued left little room for ideological nuances. These frustrated patriots and their resentful

progeny, radicalized by prolonged ostracism from the political scene, as well as by political persecution, have now come to power and they exercise it with a vengeance.

These are the Pasok stalwarts who took up key posts in the party, the Government and the state and are busy uprooting the last vestiges of right wing control in the administration, to protect themselves against subversion. They are denouncing post war Greek history with a zeal.

Pasok's efforts to eliminate the surviving vestiges of wartime antagonism by extending due recognition to EAM's resistance record, arranging pensions for its fighters and permitting the mass repatriation of the remaining 30,000 political refugees in Eastern Europe, won widespread approval in Greece.

But the Pasok congress has now taken the identification process one step further. The applause reserved for General Markos, now a towering 78, like

the triumphant welcome he is given in the pro-Government press last year when he returned from Russia after 35 years of exile, implied regret that the Communists under his leadership had not won the civil war.

Constantine Mitsotakis, chief spokesman for the opposition Conservatives, drew attention to this new face of Pasok which, he said, "now emerges as a revisionist movement out to punish the democratic parties for having won the civil war."

To this generation of Greeks, of course, anti-Americanism is daily bread and butter. They are firmly convinced that had it not been for the Truman doctrine which poured arms and money into Greece between 1946-49, they might still have won. Pasok's platform is consistent with these attitudes. But, after two and a half years in power, the Papandreu administration has shown enough pragmatism not to rock the boat at least over issues directly relevant to the country's military and economic security.

Greece scores diplomatic victory at UN over Cyprus

From Zoriana Pysarski, New York

The UN Security Council has adopted its most strongly worded resolution to date on efforts by the Turkish Cypriot community to consolidate its rule in the self-proclaimed state in the north of the island. It also spared little censure against Turkey as the occupying power.

After more than a week of heated debate on the subject, the council gave the Greek side a strong diplomatic victory and condemned "unilateralist actions" in Cyprus, including the exchange of ambassadors.



Mr Denktas: Warning over imprudent moves.

between the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey.

The United States abstained from the vote as an expression of newly-crystallized policy of cultivating Turkey for its strategic usefulness in the Gulf and Middle East conflicts. Pakistan, which 13 countries including Britain gave their support.

But, despite the clear message sent by the Council that further measures to partition Cyprus will not be tolerated, members of the council see a negotiated settlement between the two sides as moving quickly and inevitably out of reach.

Mr. Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, warned the council that its imprudent moves could kill the mediation efforts of Senior Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, who has once again been given the task of picking up the pieces. The consensus is that the Turkish side will continue to consolidate its unilateral independence.

Ankara: Turkey said yesterday that the resolution ran against hopes that Cyprus's problems could be solved by recognizing the legal rights of both its communities (Reuters reports).

Leading article, page 15



Dwindling supplies: Ethiopian refugees in Sudan face a bleak future.

Seven million Ethiopians could starve

Nairobi (AP) — A photographer just back from drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia reported yesterday that between five and seven million Ethiopians could starve to death in the next two months.

The Nairobi-based photographer, Mohamed Amin, wrote in a front-page story in Nairobi's Sunday Nation: "The worst drought in Ethiopia's history

has now spread into its once fertile highlands, with more than a fifth of its 31 million people victims."

Amin, who spent 12 days traveling by DC3 aircraft, helicopter and four-wheel-drive vehicles in Ethiopia and neighbouring Djibouti, called the Ethiopian drought "one of Africa's greatest tragedies in the making."

He quoted Mr Dawit Giorgis, head of Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Organization as saying: "We need 250,000 tons of grain now." That would provide the minimum daily grain ration the victims need to stay alive.

"Altogether, we need 900,000 tons of grain in the next few months if we are to save these poor people."

New attitude to food production

Why the rising price of rice has sown the seeds of capitalism

In the first of three articles on Vietnam, David Watts, South-East Asia Correspondent, describes how the need to grow more rice has made ideological purity a less immediate concern.



Professor Tran Phuung smiles mischievously as he admits that good old-fashioned capitalism is playing an important role in the rehabilitation of Vietnamese agriculture.

Contract incentive schemes have improved rice production by about 50 per cent since they were introduced and there are tentative efforts to offer the same extra rewards on the industrial side of the economy.

Professor Phuung, who is vice-chairman of the council of ministers in charge of economic policy, believes it is perfectly acceptable to use such individualistic methods to encourage socialist production: "In peace time we should have material incentives and expand piece-work wages to pay people according to production. Any effort above the quota gets better pay. It's a policy every country applies in peace time. The policy during war time was abnormal."

Thirty years of war left Vietnamese agriculture exhausted or destroyed with half a million hectares uncultivated and with a formerly extensive rice exporter reduced to being a chronically dependent importer from the United States. Since 1975 the need to get basic food production up to self-suf-

ficiency levels has persuaded those with a more pragmatic outlook to try methods which are anathema to large sections of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

By the end of last year the pragmatists had the upper hand, at least for the moment, with rice production at 17 million tons - sufficient to feed the country at the low levels of nutrition to which Vietnam has become accustomed.

The victory had been at a price of division within the party. And criticism that the incentives, which allow peasants and cooperatives to retain excess production for their own use or resale, have contributed to corruption.

This spring the paddy fields of the Red River delta are a vivid green giving hopes of a good spring crop. But appearances are misleading: an unusually severe winter had played havoc with the last of the 1983 crop and there is already a shortage of rice on the free market on which so many Vietnamese rely. The price of rice is sky-rocketing with the better varieties costing as much as 60 dong a kilogramme. The price had previously been running at about 25 dong a kilo. In the

north government employees get varying monthly rice allowances at half a dong a kilo depending on their status.

To make up shortages in the north, however, is problematic. Rice production in the northern half of the country is still under-developed but to bring rice from the country's rice bowl in the Mekong delta is vastly expensive and there is a lack of transport infrastructure. One senior party cadre said one kilo of rice produced in the north was better than 20 imported from the south.

So despite markets full of fresh tomatoes and bananas in Hanoi, inflation is rampant and the prospect is that Vietnam will have to import some 200,000 tons of rice during the year.

But the professor is adamant that these capitalist practices pose no danger to socialism: "Categorically no," he says with a wry smile. "Officially no capitalists remain. We require managers of big factories to have joint enterprises with the state but we may say that there are small capitalists. We allow them to have up to 15 workers because we believe they are useful to the economy. They are useful in the sense that they can manufacture a variety of products that the state factories can't."

"You will not get one per cent of Vietnamese who prefer capitalism," the professor insists.

Tomorrow: Military strength

Mothers allowed to visit Turkish jails

From Rasik Gardilek, Ankara

A Mother's Day meeting yesterday between 920 political prisoners in Ankara and their mothers or children is seen here as indicating an improvement in the harsh conditions which led to a 45-day hunger strike earlier this year.

Prisoners in the Mamak military jail were allowed 20 minutes to meet their families, without iron bars or wire netting, sitting across tables in the prison yard.

Officials said that the same opportunity was granted to the inmates of military jails in Istanbul. But some reports said that hundreds of relatives of 226 prisoners on a hunger strike since April 11 in the Metris and Sigmalar military jails in Istanbul had threatened to stage a hunger strike in protest at the refusal of their requests to visit the hunger strikers.

Turkish and foreign journalists were allowed to cover the Mamak prison visit.

A statement released by the

Government late last Friday, in reply to a recent report by Amnesty International, said that "improvements were being carried out in military and civilian jails throughout the country in line with the recommendations of a government-appointed commission".

The admission of the need for improvements in prison conditions was accompanied by vitriolic attacks on the "unfounded claims of widespread torture" which were attributed to the propaganda of Turkish dissidents abroad.

The statement noted that many of the torture victims listed in the Amnesty report had either never complained of torture or maltreatment of the Turkish authorities, or a medical examination had yielded "no traces of torture".

It admitted, however, "some isolated cases of torture". Those responsible had been punished, it said.

European Notebook

UK seeks to polish its tarnished image



Taking advantage of the lull in the EEC budget negotiations, Britain has been trying to polish up its European image.

Despite persistent cries of injured innocence, Britain has never been able to convince public opinion in the rest of Europe that it has a real European commitment.

Belgian newspapers last week were not slow to draw a parallel between the behaviour of Spurs wrecking Brussels and British governments wrecking the Community.

There can be no doubt that this preconception makes it all the more difficult for Mrs Thatcher to negotiate with her naturally abrasive style. Britain is not so much plaintiff in the case as a defendant in the dock.

This last week saw Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Minister, launching another well-prepared campaign to slash the exorbitant price of European air fares. It is a popular campaign with the European public, even if it is anathema to many member states who are frightened to open their national flag carriers to price competition.

Mr Ridley tried to make out it was just coincidence that British Airways and KLM between them had agreed to slash London-Amsterdam return fares to just £49, even though he must have been aware of the negotiations which made it all possible.

But with the prospect of a price war in the air, the Transport Council did agree (at last) to set up a working group to study liberalizing air services and it may even report back by the end of the year. That is further than Britain itself was able to go when it was last in the EEC council chair, even though it had made the question one of its urgent priorities.

Transport generally is a subject where Britain is very keen to show how European it is. It is not very expensive to the budget and supporting measures like border crossings are popular with the public.

It is also very European. The Treaty of Rome actually has one more article about a common transport policy than it has about a common agricultural policy. Add to that

the articles about freeing services, opening up the internal market and freeing the movement of services, and Britain can try to argue it is in the vanguard of true Europeans.

This week will see the wraps coming off another popular project, where Britain wants to be seen leading the way. The Commission is due to put forward its proposals for introducing lead-free petrol by mid-week and whatever the technical arguments remaining, Britain means to give full and urgent support to efforts to make EEC cars all run on lead-free petrol by the end of the century.

This is an area where France and Italy are known to be dragging their feet.

It is also made easier by recent Commission figures (being proudly circulated by British officials in Brussels) which show that Britain has been hauled before the European Court for offending the treaties only ten times since 1978. This compares with 34 times by France, 69 times by Italy and 13 times by West Germany over the same period.

Ian Murray

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Curfew as Hindu mobs protest at killing of editor by Sikh gunmen

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Sikh extremists shot and killed a newspaper editor in Jullundur in the troubled state of Punjab at the weekend. Two years ago they shot his father.

Mr Ramesh Chander, aged 55, who took over the reins of the Hind Samachar newspaper group after the death of his father, died when his car was ambushed by three assassins in the centre of the town in broad daylight.

The Hindu population of Jullundur reacted immediately. Bazaars closed the mobs refused to let the police near to take Mr Chander's body away. A curfew was declared in the town until this morning.

Mr Chander was the third editor killed in Punjab this year. Mr Sukhraj Singh, editor of an extreme left-wing newspaper was shot by two Sikhs who called at his home in Gurdaspur in April. Mr Sumit Singh, editor of one of the oldest Punjabi monthlies, *Prer-Laxi*, was shot and killed two months before at his home near Amritsar.

Journalists have been targets of the Sikh gunmen ever since Mr Chander's father, Mr Lala Jagat Narain, was murdered as he was driving home.

Santi Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the fundamentalist leader of the Sikh militants, was accused of complicity in Mr Narain's murder and arrested. He was released only after riots in which 21 people died, and

after the intervention of the central Government.

Santi Bhindranwale then took refuge in the Golden Temple of Amritsar and has not left it since.

Mr Narain's other son, Mr Vijay Chopra told me recently: "Since my father was killed we have all had police bodyguards. The police are now telling us we should have two gunmen each."

His brother had two gunmen in his car when he died. The bodyguards given to people who have appeared on a so-called hit list prepared by Santi Bhindranwale's followers have not been able to prevent several quite public murders.

The head of the Delhi Sikh temple committee was assassinated in a busy street in the capital a few weeks ago although a bodyguard was in his car, and the former deputy police chief of Amritsar had two bodyguards killed by his attackers before he and his family were wiped out.

Even Mr Chander's son, Mr Ashwini Kumar, who is Delhi editor of one of the Samachar group newspapers, and who also appears on the hit list, found himself suddenly without protection recently when angry trade unionists pursuing an industrial dispute in his office snatched his bodyguard's sten gun. He got it back only after much difficulty.

Reporters covering the Sikh

disturbances have been man-handled and threatened.

A reporter for one Hindu newspaper was stabbed in the thigh as he was leaving the Golden Temple in Amritsar recently.

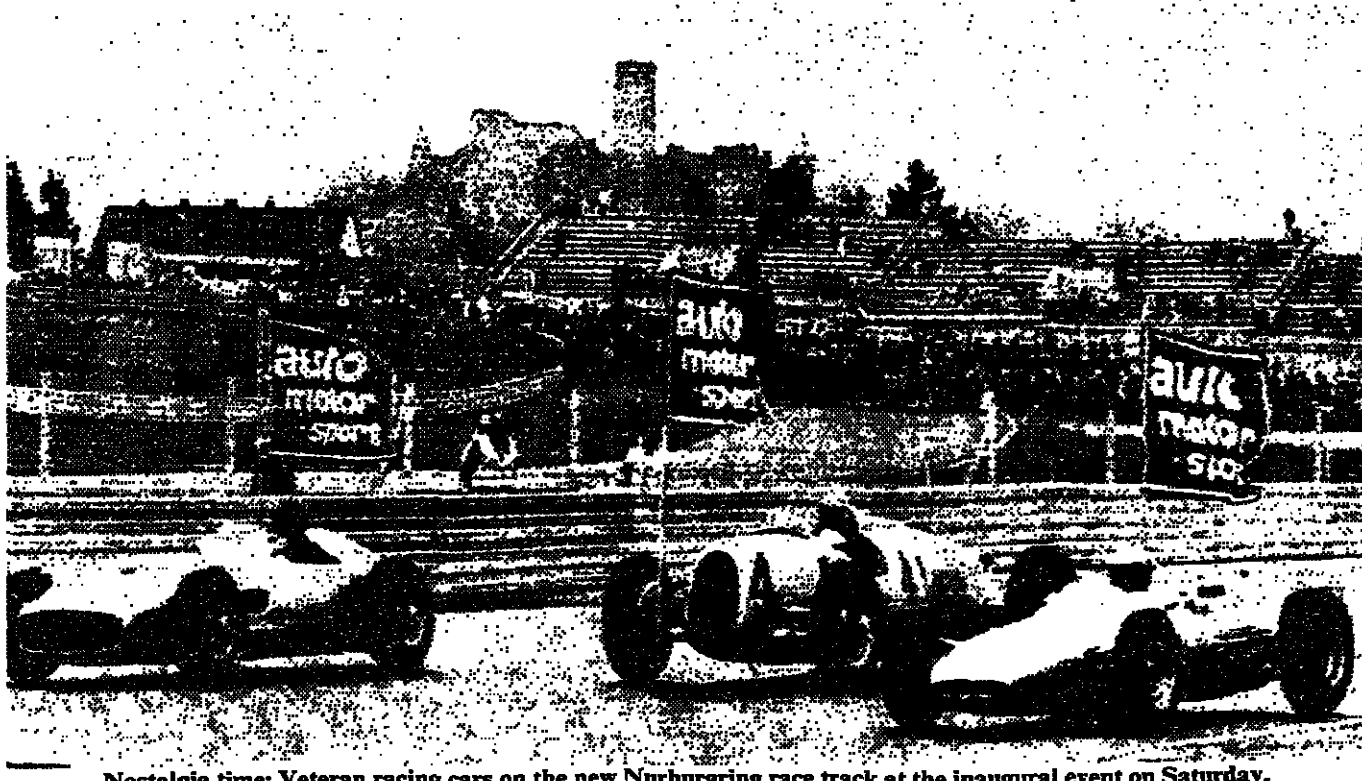
Mr Chander Mohan, editor of *Pratap*, also based in Jullundur said: "The bravest press in the country happens to be based in Punjab. Our colleagues in other parts of the country face threats from the Government or the police, but we in Punjab are under pressure from people who are beyond reason or logic. They deny our stories by sending parcel bombs."

Pratap received two explosive parcels last year. The two clerks who opened them were killed.

Mr Bush arrives: Mr George Bush, United States Vice-President, flew into Delhi to an unenthusiastic welcome.

He referred to discussions including differences between the United States and India but added that the values, traditions and interests which the two countries held in common "far outweigh any difference we might have".

The Indians are upset with American policies especially because of what they see as the rearming of Pakistan with modern weapons and the favoured treatment being given to China.



Nostalgia time: Veteran racing cars on the new Nurburgring race track at the inaugural event on Saturday.

Past and future meet at Nurburgring

From John Blunsden, Altenahr, West Germany

Ayrton Senna, the young Brazilian driver, won the first race to be held at the new Nurburgring at the weekend, snatching victory from a strong field which included former world champions Sir Jack Brabham, Phil Hill, John Surtees, Denis Hulme, Nikki Lauda, James Hunt, Jody Scheckter, Alan Jones and Keke Rosberg.

Senna took the first place from Lauda by a margin of 1.38 seconds. Scheckter recorded the fastest lap on the damp track at just under 76 miles. Senna, who took command of the

12-lap pace from the start, was one of 20 drivers competing in identical Mercedes-Benz 190E 2.3-16 saloons, which have been developed in collaboration with Cosworth Engineering of Northampton. These had just been put into production in West Germany.

Typical Eifel weather - drizzle, fanned by a bitingly cold wind - failed to dampen the impact which the new circuit (which is located alongside the old) has made on West German motorsport enthusiasts. Over 50,000 people helped to clog the roads surrounding the circuit.

They witnessed a day-long programme of events which in the main emphasized the past, but on a circuit which emphatically represents the future with its wide open spaces, ample run-off areas and abundant high-mounted grandstands.

Saturday was a day of deep nostalgia, with many great names from the past including Manfred von Brauchitsch and René Dreyfus (both turned 80), Herman Lang, Piero Taruffi, Juan Manuel Fangio and Karl Kling, all in their 70s, being brought together with relative youngsters like Stirling Moss, aged 54, to take part in parade of racing machinery.

Things got particularly bad after the bloody riots last summer. It is the extraordinary nature of the arrests that is the worst. People may be arrested anywhere, at any time, and sentenced to up to three years imprisonment by summary military tribunals without ever knowing the charges against them and with no right to any legal representation. We met people who had been arrested and sentenced 10 times in succession.

The detention centre in the Mogul fort in Lahore has the worst reputation for the torture of political prisoners. The torture is mostly not as bad as I have witnessed in other countries, but prisoners may be deprived of sleep for nights on end, hung from the ceiling by their feet and subjected to the most savage flogging. One man we met still had scars six years later.

Former prisoners told us they were kept fettered by their hands, feet and waist in cramped cells, some no bigger than the infamous 1.5 metre by two metre "tiger cages" in Vietnam. They were allowed out for only half an hour a day. The wounds caused by the chains of ten became infected. Hygienic amenities were nonexistent.

Miss Dodson and Mairi Jaudel said that they had discovered some positive things on their trip: however, flogging of political prisoners appeared to have ceased three to four months ago, though it continued for common criminals, and a considerable number of political prisoners had been released over the past few weeks. No official explanation had been given.

The creature was dubbed "Orce man". However, after a long process of removing calcium deposits from the interior surface, which ended only last month, careful study revealed a "Crest" or ridge which raised doubts in some experts' minds about the type of animal to which it belonged. Some scientist argued that such a crest was more characteristic of the jackass or its ancestors than of man.

The director of the archaeological team which made the discovery and is continuing to excavate at the site, Señor Josep Gibert of the Institute of Paleontology at Sabadell in eastern Spain, said tests and studies of the find are continuing, and he maintained that, despite the doubts cast by some of his colleagues, the probability that the creature was a hominid is still 25-1.

The President, who is due to meet Mr Reagan in Washington on June 18 outlined the steps that were being taken to secure the release of the couple.

The Minister of National Security, Mr Lalith Athulathududai told journalists yesterday that an unknown person had handed a note to the Assistant Government Agent at Jaffna reiterating the rebels threat to kill the couple if the ransom demands were not met.

● **Tamil's statement:** In Madras the press office of a Tamil secessionist group said that Mr Allen and his wife were "well treated just now." Their whereabouts were not known (AP Reports).

Pakistan martial law 'less severe'

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Martial law, which has been in force in Pakistan for the past seven years, has resulted in thousands of arbitrary arrests, floggings and torture but there are new signs that the repression may be easing off slightly, according to the International Federation of Human Rights.

A Federation team of inquiry, comprising two French lawyers and an English barrister, Miss Joanna Dodson, has just returned from an eight-day fact-finding visit to Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad, where they managed to speak to some 60 lawyers, journalists, politicians and former political prisoners.

"People spoke to us of two to three thousand political prisoners still being held, mostly in the most appalling conditions, including many lawyers who have spoken out against martial law, but we were not able to verify that figure," Maître Etienne Jaudel, one of the French lawyers, said in Paris yesterday.

"Things got particularly bad after the bloody riots last summer. It is the extraordinary nature of the arrests that is the worst. People may be arrested anywhere, at any time, and sentenced to up to three years imprisonment by summary military tribunals without ever knowing the charges against them and with no right to any legal representation. We met people who had been arrested and sentenced 10 times in succession.

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President Zia: Regime under fire

Scientists make ass of old skull

From Harry Debellus, Madrid

An international symposium on the earliest man-like creature thought to have inhabited the Eurasian land mass was called off at the last minute because some scientists are trying to make an ass out of "Orce man", according to reports published here yesterday.

The three-day symposium, originally scheduled to begin in Granada, on May 28, under the sponsorship of the regional government of Andalusia, was to have centred on discoveries last year at a site in Orce, near Granada, where an ancient skull fragment was found. It was originally identified as coming from a hominid creature which dwelt there about 1.3 million years ago. That was earlier than any previous find in Europe or Asia.

The creature was dubbed "Orce man". However, after a long process of removing calcium deposits from the interior surface, which ended only last month, careful study revealed a "Crest" or ridge which raised doubts in some experts' minds about the type of animal to which it belonged. Some scientist argued that such a crest was more characteristic of the jackass or its ancestors than of man.

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Tamil prisoners call for release of US couple

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

A search was being conducted yesterday by the Army, Navy, Air Force and police in the northern province and 13 islands for the American couple, Mr Stanley Bryson Allen and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, who were kidnapped by Tamil rebels. The rebels have threatened to kill them by noon today if their demands for the release of 20 prisoners and 50 million rupees in gold (£1.4m) are not met through the Tamil Nadu Government in Madras.

The State-owned Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation broadcast appeals yesterday by a Roman Catholic priest, Father Aparanay Singarayar, and a university teacher, Mrs Nirmala Nithyanantha, who are two of the 20 prisoners. They asked the rebels who are holding the American couple to release them immediately and not to harm them.

Father Singarayar also said in his appeal that the kidnapping would only harm the cause for which it was intended.

Immigration uproar

From Tony Duboulin, Melbourne

The bipartisan approach to Australia's immigration policy, which has lasted virtually since large-scale immigration started soon after the Second World War, is in tatters after a week of charge and counter-charge in the federal Parliament.

Asian immigration is now almost certain to be a key issue in the next federal elections, likely to be called ahead of schedule at the end of this year or early next.

The furore hit the headlines last Tuesday when Mr Andrew Peacock, leader of the Oppo-

sition, called for a balance between the number of Asians and European and British people coming to Australia. He said there would be no bipartisan approach to the issue until that balance was achieved. His call indicated a change in direction by the Opposition.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, responded by calling for rationality and tolerance. However, he did little to calm the waters by saying that the intake of family-reunion immigrants from Asia would increase as a "statistical inevitability".

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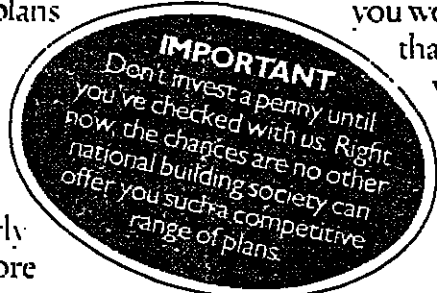
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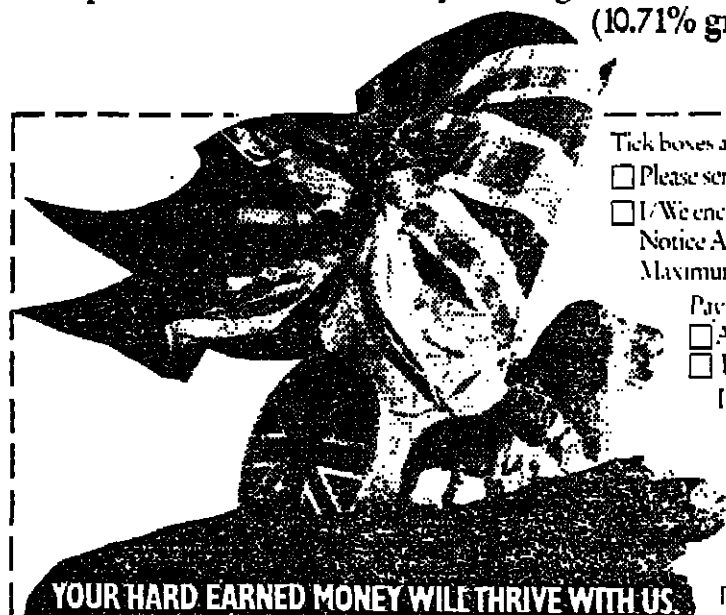
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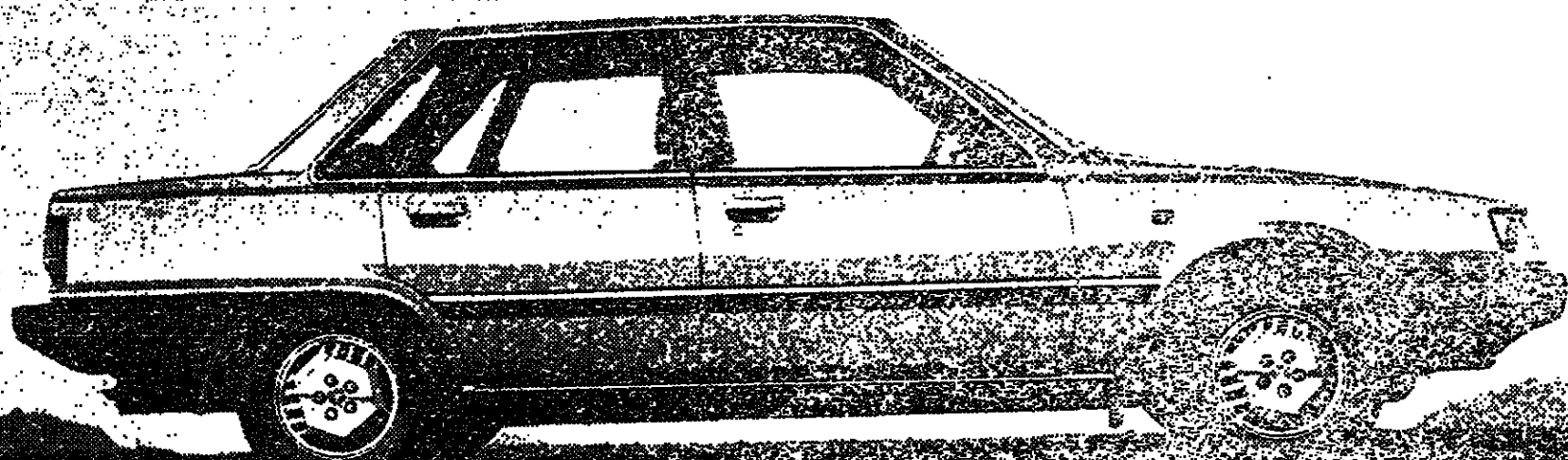
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Pakistan
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SPECTRUM

Eight years in the making, the fourth film of the story of Captain William Bligh and the mutiny that Fletcher Christian led against him is the first to tell it as it was 200 years ago - and the film *Bounty* of today sailed almost as hazardous a sea of troubles

Bounty hunters

There can be few visitors to the small and exposed cemetery of St Mary's, Lambeth, who will not have heard of the man described as having "bravely fought the battles of his country and died beloved, respected and lamented on the 7th Day of December 1817, aged 64." Despite his undisputed skills as a navigator, his courage and dedication to duty, Captain Bligh is established in the public's imagination as a tyrant who flogged his men with sadistic relish until, on April 28, 1789, they were moved to mutiny against him. The instigator of the mutiny, Fletcher Christian, was a personal friend of Bligh's, the recipient of his personal favours and then personal abuse. Christian has gone down in history as a romantic hero.

The *Bounty* is the stuff of fiction and only weeks after Bligh's return to England, following his phenomenal 4,000-mile open-boat voyage, a play called *The Pirates* was staged in London.

This year sees the release of the fourth cinema film, called simply *The Bounty*. It has taken eight years to reach the screen and is the first film to be based on authentic documentation as well as Richard Hough's 1972 book *Captain Bligh and Mr Christian*. The peculiar and dramatic history of this film offers a remarkable portrait of how Hollywood has changed in recent years.

After the failure of *Ryan's Daughter*, which appeared in 1970, director David Lean was looking for his next story. A compulsive traveller who has few possessions and lives in luxurious hotels, Lean arrived in French Polynesia with the idea of making a screen biography of Captain Cook. Perhaps because of the vastness of the undertaking (even for Lean) and perhaps because Cook's personality was disappointingly straightforward, Lean abandoned him for Bligh and the *Bounty*. Lean also fell passionately in love with the sapphire lagoons and the lush volcanic spires of Polynesia in

much the same way that he became enthralled by the Jordanian desert whilst filming *Lawrence of Arabia*.

Lean's films are examinations of the British character under stress. He places his characters in alien, inhospitable, exotic landscapes which offer a source of escape and self-discovery.

Lean installed himself in an overwater bungalow 160 miles from Tahiti, and early in 1977 sent his friend and agent Phil Kellogg to start the film rolling. At the time, the head of production at Warner Bros was John Calley, who told me: "Warners wanted to make a film with David Lean because of our respect for him and because we felt he had kept the industry alive."

Lean assembled his group of collaborators including script man Robert Bolt. Within weeks of Warner Bros agreeing to back a \$17m film, the project had grown into two films and involved the construction of a ship. The backers were nervous of the possible costs involved. "It was heartbreaking to see the project slipping away from us," says Calley. "If you pass by the chance to make a film with David Lean you have to look at yourself very critically. But John Bolt, the production designer had left the picture and we were faced with horror stories. We decided to make only one picture and review the possibility of a second film once the first picture had opened. But David was determined to make two films and then we heard that they had found someone prepared to back them." And that was the Dino De Laurentiis Corporation.

Lean and Bolt's plans were unusually detailed and ambitious, nothing less than an evocation of British manners and society in the late eighteenth century. By April 1978 a researcher hired from the Victoria and Albert Museum was back in London exchanging hundreds of telegrams with Bora Bora. An endless series of questions would arrive: What did the Dutch settlement at



DAVID LEAN

'Early sea explorers were like today's astronauts'

Coupons look like? How large were the ship's biscuits? What sort of ornaments would Lord Hood (who presided over Bligh's court martial) decorate his quarters with? How were English stage plays produced and what would the audience have worn? The film was to include the stage play *The Pirates* and one draft of the script began in outer space in order to demonstrate how the early sea explorers were the eighteenth century equivalents of astronauts.

At the very start of his involvement, De Laurentiis approved the construction of

Lean, the poet and imagist was alone

the *Bounty*. It followed the plans still held in the Maritime Museum at Greenwich. The hull was ordered from Whangarei Engineering in New Zealand while sails and rigging were ordered from Spencer Theirs Wharf on the Isle of Wight. The ship would cost \$2m and below decks would be fitted out with all the latest electronic equipment.

Understandably, De Laurentiis was becoming impatient. Almost a year had passed and the ship was not yet completed and Bolt had yet to complete the script. By now De Laurentiis had replaced Phil Kellogg with Bernard Williams, a young British executive who had been

associate producer on Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange* and *Barry Lyndon*. Williams, therefore, had had experience with perfectionists.

April 1979 en route to Tahiti following a visit to France, Robert Bolt suffered a severe heart attack. He had open-heart surgery and two days later he suffered a massive stroke. "This is when it all went wrong between them. I think that David wanted an open cheque. He wanted to spend about 70 or 80 million dollars on the two films. I think."

Bernard Williams recalls a poignant meeting with Lean. "I told David that we were living in a different age. He asked me what I meant. I said that Paramount had just spent \$6m on a film called *Saturday Night Fever* and it looked like earning \$100m. I said that the age of the big movie was over."

Lean, the "poet and imagist" as Robert Bolt once called him, now found himself alone. He had part of a screenplay which everyone who read it thought was brilliant. But the writer was desperately ill and possibly unable to work again. De Laurentiis and Paramount had withdrawn their support. He made a last ditch appeal for help to producer Sam Spiegel, with whom he had worked on two films. Spiegel made a reluctant Lean agree to find a writer who could condense the two scripts into one and, at the same time, complete Bolt's work.

Back in London Lean ap-



MEL GIBSON: Hollywood's hottest property, but far from first choice to play the new Fletcher Christian



LAURENCE OLIVIER: hired for just one week's work in the closing stages of the saga of HMS Bounty



ANTHONY HOPKINS: pledged himself to play Captain Bligh in Lean's ill-starred and abandoned Bounty



EDWARD FOX: a small part for a big name - a brief appearance as an officer at Bligh's court martial

proached Melvyn Bragg and for the next three months the pair were ensconced at the Berkeley Hotel and Bragg was driven almost to despair by Lean's obsession with detail. The tension between them was certainly aggravated by Lean's previous experience in Tahiti, by the tragedy that befell Robert Bolt, by the ever-present financial problems and because, by the time the screenplay was completed, the screenplay himself. After Melvyn Bragg left, Lean went to Switzerland to work on alone.

Four months later in September 1979 the reproduction *Bounty* was seized in New Zealand under a court order obtained by its builders, who had not been paid in full. A writ was nailed to the mast.

Seemingly undeterred, Lean and Spiegel turned their attention to casting. Lean had always wanted Anthony Hopkins to play William Bligh and Hopkins had pledged himself to the project.

In late 1980, while Lean was still grappling with the script, Christopher Reeve was invited to meet Lean at Sam Spiegel's New York apartment. "I had been recommended to Lean by Katharine Hepburn," Reeve told me. "I was excited by the chance to work with Lean who I had always regarded as one of the grand masters of the cinema." Reeve agreed to star in the film alongside Hopkins but soon afterwards, in early 1981, Lean was finally forced to abandon the *Bounty* for good.

"I left the project with a broken heart," Spiegel told me. "but discussions with studios all broke down and then David became involved with *A Passage to India*." During Lean's last weeks on the *Bounty* the project had become known in Hollywood as "The Old Man and the Sea". Lean referred in an interview to the *Bounty* as "the saddest dead duck of my career".

Lean's dream project was too expensive and came at a time when studios were changing their top executives every other week. There had been some costly failures - notably *Heaven's Gate*, *Raise the Titanic*, 1941 and De Laurentiis's own *Hurricane and Ragtime*. Everyone in Hollywood was afraid of committing themselves to an

expensive project unless it involved rock music or producer George Lucas.

And then, as Bligh says in the finished film, "it was the place itself". Tahiti and its neighbouring islands can still be paradise if one knows where to look and although areas have become polluted by tourism the dramatically beautiful landscape remains indomitable. Just as Bligh's crew surrendered to Polynesia's charms, so too did Lean and his crew. Trying to account for the endless delays, one close associate of Lean's said to me, "David will never agree with me but he became so much in love with the place he felt that if his cameras started turning its mystery and beauty would vanish."

By June 1981 the Dino De Laurentiis Corporation had made a settlement with Whangarei Engineering and put the *Bounty* up for sale. The asking price was £2,250,000. Despite a



ROBERT BOLT

'I told David that we were living in a different age'

number of reported inquiries, the *Bounty* remained the property of De Laurentiis.

Almost a year passed until, in the spring of 1982, Bernard Williams was invited to become vice-president of the Dino De Laurentiis Corporation. He asked De Laurentiis if he could revive the *Bounty* project instead.

A TV mini-series was planned and then abandoned. Williams arranged financial backing from Orion Pictures, a "mini-major" founded in 1978 by disenchanted executives from United Artists. Orion bought the project for American distribution and with this guarantee the film's future at last seemed secure. Williams frantically sought a new director. The film was scheduled to start shooting in three months. At least two directors Hugh Hudson (*Chariots of Fire*) and Michael Cimino (*Heaven's Gate*) turned them down.

Then there occurred the most extraordinary coincidence. In 1977 Roger Donaldson had directed *Sleeping Dogs* in New Zealand. Donaldson told me: "Suddenly I got a call from David Lean who said he was in New Zealand for a film about the *Bounty* and that he wanted to see my film."

Donaldson went on to direct a fine domestic drama called *Smash Palace* which De Laurentiis saw in America. De Laurentiis attaches great importance to viewing the work of new directors and he was impressed by Donaldson's talent. Donaldson then found himself in Hollywood discussing a

sequel to *Conan the Barbarian* which De Laurentiis had produced. "Dino is a man who makes his own decisions and makes them instantly," Donaldson told me. "I was very impressed by him and during our meeting I asked casually what was happening with the *Bounty*."

At 5am the next morning I got a call from Dino. He said he had an emergency and would go to see him. "Conan can't be done by someone else," he told me, "you will make the *Bounty* for me," recalled Donaldson.

Once Donaldson was signed and in England working with the long-suffering Robert Bolt, Williams had to replace Christopher Reeve who had turned down only six weeks before shooting started. There was no shortage of candidates - Jeremy Irons, Anthony Andrews, the rock star Sting, all were considered and rejected. Then Williams discovered that a film being made at MGM had been delayed and that its Australian star Mel Gibson, might be available. Gibson, touted as the hottest actor in Hollywood, agreed.

Laurence Olivier and Edward Fox were engaged for a week's work as officers at Bligh's court martial and then, suddenly, Williams had his film together. On April 18, 1983 the first scene was shot. The film's title appropriately enough, was *The Saga of HMS Bounty*.

Adrian Turner



The 1778 version of HMS Bounty: built at a cost of over \$2m and packed with below-deck electronics. Seized by the builder when payments were not met - a writ nailed to the mast.

Staggering, that's the only word for it

moreover... Miles Kingston

The race they call the greatest in the world, the London Marathon, took place yesterday as usual - and what a race it was! Right from the opening moment, when all the runners personally assured Ken Livingstone they were against apartheid, to the final solemn ceremony when the flame over the Tomb of the Unknown Racepayer was extinguished (and a small gas bill slipped into the tomb), it was an unbeatable unforgettable day! writes our team of 34 hand-picked reporters, cameramen, and exclamation-mark inserters!

The statistics alone are staggering. More than three million people entered the race, going up 70 one-way streets the wrong way and crossing the Thames 12 times. They consumed enough water to cover the Thames Barrier. 46 million glucose pills. 73 million Mars Bars and four packets of anabolic steroid-flavoured crisps. The Mars Bar wrappers alone would have stretched six inches deep from Greenwich to Buckingham Palace - in fact, they did!

In medical terms the runners generated 70,000 litres of sweat, which by evaporating formed a small cloud over London; this concentrated collection of human waste floated eastward from England over to Norway where it fell as acid rain and killed a small plantation of spruces. Truly an international day of sport!

Most amazing of all, only 36 arrests were made during the race itself, a new record. Inspector Thacker of the Yard

said afterwards that most of the offences were minor, usually caused by runners mugging each other in order to overtake.

"We had two or three hundred lads running in plain clothes with sun-glasses, rockers' leather gear, stuff like that. I think their presence definitely helped to take the heat off. The only serious case we had was of one runner arrested for carrying drugs."

Steroids? "Cocaine, actually. It would have been worth about £5m on the street, which is where he was, of course, so we nabbed him. But all in all the runners behaved beautifully. There was no picketing, as we had taken the precaution of stopping any entrant from Yorkshire and turning them back before they got to London."

The race itself produced the usual crop of amazing stories, none more so than that of Steve Dipper, an unemployed youth from Tring, who received three offers of a job while he was running.

"I had this tray of ice creams which I was carrying with me as I ran, so as to get some pocket money, know what I mean? And three blokes offered me jobs in their restaurants, seeing as how I was so enterprising. I am now running a small chain of take-away kebab houses in the Midlands, and this is only the day after the race. Can't be bad."

Daphne Pilger from Stockwell went one better. She got engaged to be married at the ten mile mark.

"I'd been running with this very nice fellow from Kilburn whom I'd never met before, but we had all sorts of things in common - we both liked Duran Duran, we saw the same shampoo and had both bought sombreros at Malaga Airport. Anyway, he suddenly asked me to marry him and I thought, why not? Trouble was, he left me at the 15-mile mark for a blonde with a big collection of Culture Club records and I never saw him again, but I don't regret anything. It was marvellous while it lasted."

Most heart-warming of all, Simon Ronco actually met his mother during the race, whom he had not seen for 29 years.

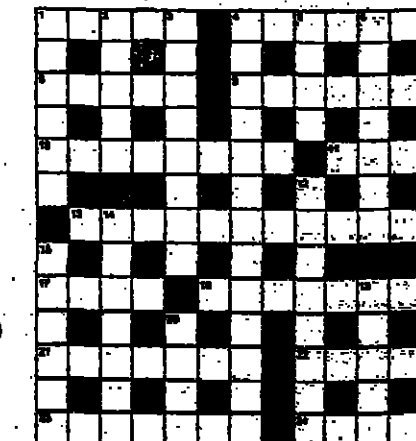
"She had run off when I was three, and here she was, still running! It was a wonderful day for me, especially as she thinks she knows who my father is. I can't thank the GLC enough."

Yes, this was all made possible by the GLC. And it's the GLC that the Tories are trying to kill! Doesn't make sense, does it? If you want to keep London running smoothly, write to your MP, enclosing one Mars Bar wrapper. (Advt.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 341)

- ACROSS
1 Italian dough dish (5)
2 Mail sack (7)
3 Refrain from executing (5)
4 Cut out (7)
5 Feudal lord (8)
6 Encourage (4)
7 Environmental stress study (11)
8 Sail into wind (4)
9 Mockery (8)
10 Inscribed (7)
11 Powerful man (5)
12 Attendant body (7)
13 Praise lavishly (5)

- DOWN
1 Art traditionalist (6)
2 Animated corpse (5)
3 Sublime element (8)
4 Predominance (13)
5 Ill (4)
6 US maize whisky (7)



- 7 Separated area (6)
8 Search refuge (8)
9 Wooden clog (5)
10 Yacht club machine (6)
11 Fan heater (6)
12 Brass percussion (6)
13 Wooden clog (5)
14 Yacht club machine (6)
15 Fan heater (6)

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

BILLY GRAHAM

-worth listening to!



BRISTOL	Ashton Gate	May 12-19	SAT 12 SUN 13 MAY 30 MON 14 SAT 19 MAY 7.30
SUNDERLAND	Roker Park	May 26-June 2	7.30pm
NORWICH	Carrow Road	June 9-12	SAT 9 MON 11 TUE 12 JUNE 7.30pm
BIRMINGHAM	Villa Park	June 30-July 7	7.30pm Except SUN 3.30
LIVERPOOL	Anfield	July 14-21	8.00pm
IPSWICH	Portman Road	July 24-27	7.30pm

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MONDAY PAGE

Divorce - American style

The Government's divorce reform proposals have been fiercely debated in and outside Parliament during the past few months. The Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill, at present in committee stage, aims to reform the present maintenance and alimony system to end the so-called "meal ticket for life" and to protect children's

interests. This emphasis on financial self-sufficiency for wives, which has been opposed by single parent groups in this country, has been one of the main planks of divorce law in the United States since the mid-1970s. BAILEY MORRIS reports on the array of problems that has emerged with the changes.

Washington

These are the worst of times for Henry and Diane Mistle, who despite being legally divorced are living together by order of a United States court. How this bizarre state of affairs came about is a story which could be written only in America, where attempts have been made for more than a decade to correct inequities caused by the widespread adoption of "no-fault" divorce laws. In the widely-publicized case of the Mistles, a well-meaning but misguided judge in Detroit, Michigan, tried to defuse the unwritten rules of a broken marriage by sentencing them, for the sake of their children, to four years of "togetherness". Under the terms of this unique, even freakish decision, Mr Mistle is responsible for the maintenance of a comfortable house in the expensive Grosse Pointe Woods area of Detroit, as well as for grocery money and \$400 (£285) a month alimony. Mrs Mistle is responsible for cooking, housekeeping, shopping and childcare.

He sleeps in the bedroom; she sleeps in the sitting-room. Neither is allowed to bring "dates" home. If either breaks the rules, the penalty is loss of custody of their three sons. Both have denounced the judge and are fighting the decision.

One result has been the creation of a new poverty class

As Britain embarks on its first reform of divorce law since 1969, it is useful to examine, not the terms of the Mistle decision, but the motives which prompted the attempt of 78-year-old Detroit judge David Vokes to hold together a marriage that had broken down irrevocably.

A careful reading of the decision suggests that he saw Diane Mistle as "Everywoman" of a certain age and economic background who is likely to slip through the cracks of no-fault divorce laws which no longer guarantee lifetime support. She is over 40, and has not worked since her three sons - aged 14 to 16 - were born. She is one generation of women who accepted the social dictum that a woman's place was at home. To push her out into society with only a modest property settlement, outdated skills and prospects of only a very low-paying job would be to doom her to a life very close to the poverty line.

This, at any rate, was the judge's thinking, based on 20 years of hearing divorce cases. His experience taught him - and US statistics show - that since the widespread adoption of no-

fault divorce laws in 1970, first the rate of divorce has increased (one in two US marriages is legally dissolved); second terms have changed (child-support payments and other forms of financial assistance have decreased); and third, one unfortunate result had been the creation of a new class of poor families headed by single, working women.

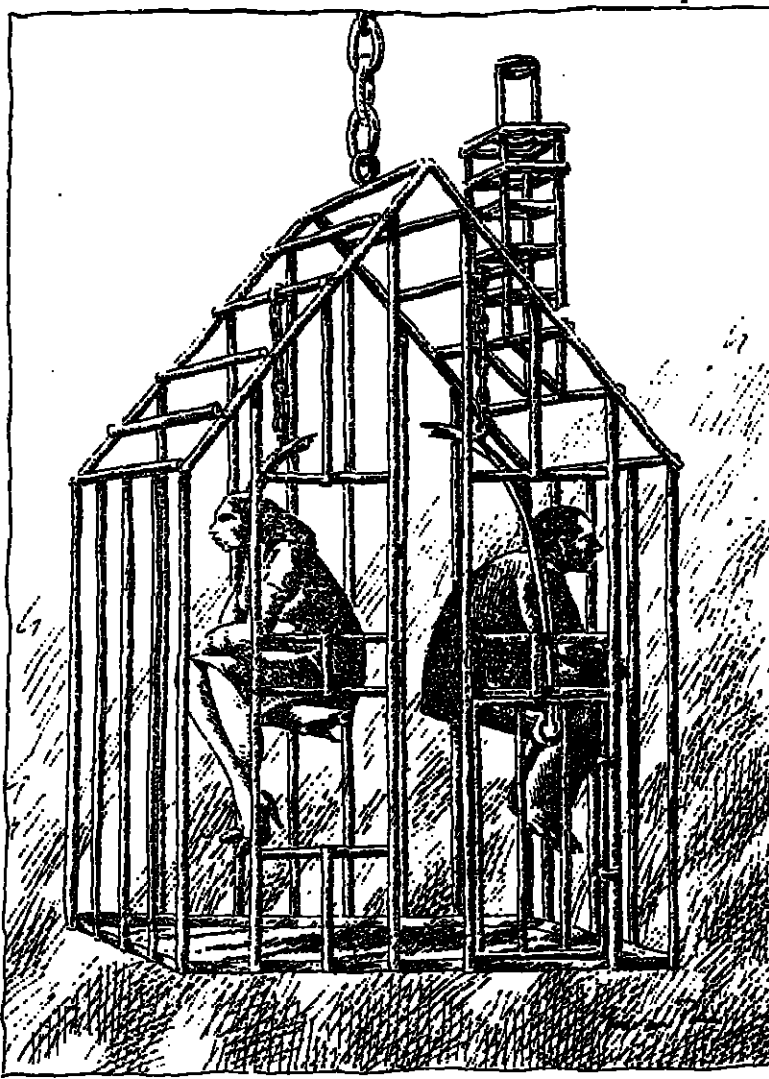
The growth of this new poverty class is thought to be a generational phenomenon, will not occur among younger, better-educated women whose career prospects are brighter. For the moment, however, it is a class that imposes new burdens on society and poses challenges to individual courts in the 51 state jurisdictions. They must put into practice specific terms of legal principles that are stated only in general terms.

In the 44 states which now require equitable distribution of marital property, it is up to the courts to decide what goes into the pot and how it should be divided. How much value should be placed, for example, on mothering, housekeeping, hostessing and other intangibles? Should the lost career potential of a foreign service wife or woman who stayed at home be taken into consideration? May a wife make claim to her husband's share of a closely-held business or to future royalties on a book written during the marriage?

As property settlements go up, and awards of alimony go down - only 10 per cent of US divorces now receive such payments - These are the new issues courts are asked to resolve. There is no uniform response. Only 30 states, for example, weigh the economic value of housework, which has been estimated at figures varying from \$100 to \$300 a week.

Pensions are also a burning issue. In marriages in which the husband's pension was one of the main assets, wives have pressed for their share, but the practice of splitting pensions was recently interrupted by a controversial Supreme Court decision which declared in a case involving retirement pay of railway workers, that pensions may not be assigned to anyone but the worker. The court has not yet ruled on a similar case involving private pensions. It could terminate altogether the practice of pension-splitting unless Congress passes new legislation.

This "total picture" approach to divorce settlements has created a new breed of economic specialists who earn fees of \$5,000 and more to place valuations, which will stand up in court, on a medical practice, an accountancy business and the like. In some acrimonious cases, platoons of competing specialists are employed to



help divide the spoils, thus raising the cost of litigation enormously.

The excesses that have grown up under the no-fault system have led to repeated calls for reform. State legislatures and associations of trial lawyers have appealed for national, standardized, methods of evaluating the net worth of businesses and professions so as to cut divorce litigation fees. Increasingly, too, there are calls for government regulations, either state or federal, to set standards for divorce clinics in order to eliminate the assembly-line type, which encourages couples to slip in and out of marriage with ease.

But generally, it must be said that the principles guiding courts since the adoption of no-fault divorce laws are laudable, and preferable to the former system of protracted court battles and lifetime alimony support. They are that property be divided fairly; that children be supported by one parent or both parents, depending on the means of each; that whenever possible alimony be eliminated, or alternatively be of a temporary nature, to encourage the ex-wife or ex-husband to support himself or herself.

In practice, however, the system often fails. Despite court awards and the concern of officials, frequently neither child support nor alimony is paid.

Most of the women in receipt of court-ordered child support payments are willing to spend on higher education and for how long.

● Remarital contracts, especially popular among young working professionals, which stipulate precisely what belongs to whom and how it will be divided should the marriage break down.

● Increased use of mediators to hold families together and settle money and visitation disputes.

● Separate child support clauses stipulating the amount a

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were getting an average of only 55 per cent of the amount due. Taking inflation into account, the amounts awarded were smaller.

Perhaps more disturbing was the finding that more than one-half of the 8.4 million women living with children under 21, in families in which no father was present, received no support at all.

Studies reveal that divorce is harder on boys than girls

These grim statistics add up to a national problem which President Reagan mentioned in a State of the Union message this year in which he promised increased federal efforts to help mothers collect payments to bolster the deteriorating family structure.

Reagan is considering the use of computers to track down non-paying spouses - usually fathers - who attempt to go underground by changing their names or seeking employment in other states. Under this proposal, the names of non-paying fathers or mothers would be forwarded to the inland revenue service, which would deduct from federal tax refunds the money owed.

This will not, however, be enough to correct the problems faced by the children of divorce. Many, who formerly lived with both parents in middle-class homes, experience rapid deterioration in their standards of living. Support payments increasingly cease well before the age of 21, leaving the mother to pay for vocational training and university education she can rarely afford.

Economic sacrifices are only part of the problem. There are deep emotional scars as well. Despite the growing acceptance of shared physical and legal custody of children, and a new movement by fathers to gain custody, courts continue overwhelmingly to award the care of children to mothers. Often, in several years time, or after remarriage, the father drops out of the children's lives completely.

This is disastrous for boys in divorced people's families. New studies reveal that divorce is harder on boys than girls, who adjust more rapidly, often recovering from the shock in a year's time, whereas it can take a boy up to three years to recover. As the effects on children have become better researched, courts and parents have tried to find better ways of preserving their interests. This has led to experiments known as the "empty nester" syndrome, in which both parents retain custody of children, each parent taking turns to visit, and a shared custody regime in which children shuttle back and forth.

Courts in cases where children become pawns in the divorce proceedings have also begun to appoint independent child counsellors or watchdogs to protect their rights. These are some of the problems and solutions which have arisen during the past decade of no fault divorce. Well-meaning judges like the one who heard the Mistles' case often attempt to resolve them on their own - with disastrous results.



of such short duration that when people ring up to ask me to write a book, discuss an article, or indeed give a talk, my first thought is that they have mistakenly been put through to my extension instead of Miles Kingdon's.

However, what I could talk about at some length are the years I spent having a job. A job is to a career as Aetolian is to cashmere and yet a job is what most people end up doing. Even, I suspect, the well-motivated young women who are prepared to give up a Saturday afternoon to listen to me talk, unless they take greater care than I ever did in planning their working lives.

So probably the best thing I can do for them is to deliver a painful account of the error of my ways, on the same principle that lifers are trotted out to lecture to juvenile offenders as a means of nipping evil intentions in the bud.

My first mistake, aged eighteen, was to think of work as something that could be fitted in to the rest of the exciting mish-mash which was then my life. Lucky enough to have been taken on by *Logue* magazine, I gave only half my attention to Yves St Laurent, while the other half was deployed in the pursuit of love.

Work for me, and indeed for most of my female contemporaries, was a way of passing the time while we waited. Misadventure-like, for something to turn up - the something being a euphemism for a husband with enough money to transform us into full-time housewives and mothers. I was so enraptured by this prospect that I hardly noticed the pleasures that might be afforded by taking one's work seriously, among them pride in one's own achievements, a certain amount of prestige and regular pay rises.

When I did notice, it was too late. By then I had two small children around which work, again, had to be fitted in.

As any working woman will tell you, anyone with a modicum of efficiency can manage to combine a job with motherhood but only a brilliant few can run to a career as well.

The long sharp shock of getting divorced didn't really improve my career prospects, even though it made going back

to work an economic imperative. Guilt mingled with despair and uncertainty, which is what most divorced mothers feel most of the time, is not the best basis on which to launch a brilliant career, a move which requires bags of self-confidence and the understanding that an admiring world is ready to lay itself at your feet.

I might never have had a career at all had not things happened: the first was that my children grew up and the second was that I married a man who, having got a great deal of satisfaction out of his own working life, understood my wish to do the same.

Tentatively, I began to turn my life around so that everything fitted in to my work rather than the other way around. The more time and effort I put into my career, the more pleasurable it became and so it has got much easier to say "no" to things that will come between me and my current love affair with my work. Things like late nights, over-heck weekends and the conviction that I alone should be responsible for choosing, buying and gift-wrapping every single Christmas present including that destined for my husband's former mother-in-law.

I do not expect today's young women to muddle through life as distractedly as I once did. It seems to me they are more disciplined in keeping their romantic natures in check and that they don't share that ridiculous fear of commitment to work that plagued me. They also seem to have more energy. "That's because they don't waste it mooching around waiting for their boy friends to ring", a friend explained crisply.

I may, perhaps, need to work harder at keeping my career aloft than they ever will and I fully intend to. Having found it at long last, I should hate to see it go.

● Should you live in an area that's vulnerable to visits by the Avon Lady, think twice before letting her in.

For the woman whose cry of "Ding Dong, Avon calling" has echoed politely through the ages may now have to change her tune. Hicks B Waldron, the president and chief executive officer of Avon Products Inc, has threatened a certain amount of "restructuring" in his management and personnel teams with a view to "being almost outreaching, more aggressive and maybe a little more risk-taking". So I fear that the Avon Lady may have abandoned her soft-soap approach in favour of selling techniques that employ all the finesse of a fairground Barker.

Frances Gibb on a hollow legal victory

Winner loses all

When Patricia Eaton, a South London college lecturer, won £12,000 libel damages last year against her former lover in the so-called "sex blackmail" case, colleagues and friends thought she had done rather well.

The award and the £20,000 legal costs ordered against art lecturer Terry Horsley seemed some kind of compensation for three years of the emotional turmoil and strain that is always likely to attend litigation, particularly where reputation is concerned.

But it is victory that has turned distinctly sour as far as Miss Eaton is concerned. To this day, the sum total she has received from Mr Horsley is £600, most of which has gone to her solicitor, and she still faces debts of some £12,000, the amount outstanding from the legal costs incurred in clearing her name.

Libel actions, while attracting much publicity, are relatively rare. Those that are brought represent only a small percentage of cases where there may be grounds for an action but where the victim is deterred from litigation because of the immense obstacles involved. And of those writs that are issued, 95 per cent are settled out of court.

Unlike every other kind of civil action, libel does not qualify for legal aid. So any would-be litigant must, if not wealthy, at least have access to funds running to several thousand pounds. And the onus of proof is on the person suing; he must show the words were defamatory. Third, again unlike other civil actions, juries are used, which can make the results unpredictable.

Despite these obstacles, Miss Eaton, a lecturer in movement studies and health education, went ahead with her action after an 18-month affair with Mr Horsley at Avery Hill College of Further Education where they both worked. She claimed that a letter to the college head by him had severely damaged her personal and professional reputation. Copies of the letter were circulated to other staff members.

The case, which came to court last February, had all the ingredients guaranteed to attract maximum press interest, with the consequent harassment and invasion of privacy that that entails.



Patricia Eaton: awarded £12,000, still owes £12,000

When the jury came out unequivocally in Miss Eaton's favour, her decision to fight in the courts seemed vindicated. But it was the judge, in summing up, who prophetically warned that there could be "no winners, only losers", at the end of the day.

"She argues that she had no choice but to sue. 'The hurt I feel most', she says, 'is that no one mentions my attempts to stop this ever reaching the courts.' As far back as October 1980, her lawyers had written to Mr Horsley, saying she would settle for an apology and £25 costs. Three years later, with all attempts to settle out of court having failed, Mr Horsley faced finding £32,000.

Further legal action became necessary to secure regular payments of the money. By this time however Miss Eaton, who had already raised £7,000 with help from friends to bring the case, was out of cash. Her solicitor, who had paid all the money to her counsel, could no longer act for her without paying out of his own pocket.

So when the crunch came last October, "the day, before my fiftieth birthday", she had to fight unaided. Mr Horsley, who had been forced to take out a second mortgage on his home to fight the libel case, declared himself bankrupt and Miss Eaton was in effect his only unsecured creditor.

Last month she sought to contest the bankruptcy move. Her application was dismissed. "How is it", she asks, "that judgment can be awarded in one's favour and the other party, who does not pay, can become bankrupt and I end up not only without the money but paying more?"

The tale is a cautionary one. With legal aid not currently available, would-be litigants face a hard choice: endure possible permanent damage to reputation and livelihood, or risk thousands of pounds in seeking to vindicate them. And without any state compensation fund to help in such cases as Miss Eaton's, as some lawyers propose, even the winner can lose all.

TALKBACK

Teacher in a pet

From Lisa Hallgarten, 14 Antrim Grove, London.

With reference to headmaster John Pearman's "Comment" (Monday Page, May 7), I would like to comment on the role and performance of Britain's teachers from a different perspective. As a student in a large London comprehensive, I reject totally the idea that teachers underestimate their responsibility to their pupils. My long experience as a pupil has shown me the great extent of my teachers' concern both in their time spent in preparation and marking and in their acceptance of much unpaid overtime. It is precisely because teaching is a caring profession that, like nurses, teachers can be exploited financially through their own genuine concern, and the public outcry that inevitably follows strike threats.

Finally, to claim that teachers are "unaccountable" is to insult the very intelligence of school students. Most students know if a teacher is lazy, inefficient or indifferent to their needs, and I would put it to John Pearman that the potential scorn and condemnation of a class of thirty children usually ensures that teachers do their job well. Perhaps, if he would venture from the security of his headmaster's office, into the classrooms of my school, he would see the stupidity of his shortsighted and inaccurate "Comment".

From John Adams, 16 Laburnum Crescent, Kidlington, Oxford.

I cannot allow another unnecessary holiday to go unused, and so abandon my CSE-marking to take issue with John Pearman's opinions.

"Most teachers are paid far too much already." Perhaps when I started teaching in 1967, it would have taken my entire gross salary for three years to purchase our extremely modest little house. This is still the case. The difference is that I am now at the top of my scale as head of department in a large comprehensive, with little chance of promotion.

"And they are paid it, in many cases, for doing far too little." Head teachers are paid twice as much as the average teacher, and have very little contact with the classroom. Perhaps Mr Pearman has lost touch altogether.



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PARIS DIARY

Frank Johnson

Verdi-nine steps, and dozens more

During the 1970s the composer and conductor Pierre Boulez wrote a much-discussed article entitled: "Opera houses: Blow them up!"

His view, in its essentials, was that opera, as organized in our time, is a decadent, conservative, philistine activity unrelated to the realities of the second half of the twentieth century. Since he wrote the article, the French have tended to agree with him in increasing numbers. So the audience for opera has been going up.

This was not what M Boulez had in mind. He was, and still is, against all those cumbersome performances of, say, *Aida*, with fat people strolling around with Art Deco lampshades on their heads pretending to be ancient Egyptians. Such goings-on were a waste of the subsidies enjoyed by the great opera houses.

I believe that both M Boulez and the audiences that like lampshade *Aidas* are right. Such *Aidas* could well afford to pay for themselves and the proper place for them is not the opera house but the sports stadium. This Paris has just proved with an excellent series of *Aida* at the new stadium at Bercy. The building was opened a few weeks ago with round-the-clock cycling and continued with world middleweight boxing, though, in an uncharacteristic failure of showmanship, the management failed to incorporate those two attractions in the performance of *Aida* I saw.

The various casts for the 16 performances tended to be as strong as one would find in most leading houses (for the benefit of opera botes, the cast I heard was Dimitrova, Orazisova, Cossuta, and Vinco, with the baritone being the less well-known, though perfectly acceptable, Giuseppe Scandola. Michel Plisson conducted the Toulouse Opera Orchestra).

The producer and designer was Vittorio Rossi, who has worked on spaghetti westerns. I suppose an *Aida* in Paris is a frogs leg middle-eastern. For the benefit of non-opera botes, the "production number" in *Aida* is the Triumph Scene: the Egyptian army marching across the stage to a very famous trumpet tune, having thrashed the primitive Ethiopians. In the opera house, the logistics involved have traditionally been solved by having most of the Egyptians march around behind the scenery and come back again in exactly the same way, except for those carrying primitive Ethiopian trophies - invariably chamber pots - who change trophies backstage, substituting the chamber pot for, say, a huge shoe horn.

At Bercy, the scene consisted of a vast flight of steps up to the top of the stadium from a hole at the bottom of these steps processed about 300 soldiers who marched up to the roof, lights playing on their golden helmets. Glorious. Elsewhere, Signor Rossi's production was more conventional. Lamp shades were worn.

And an operatic vista of Bastille and glass

The centre of nearly every capital in the world, it seems, has been influenced, or ruined, by the Francophone Swiss Le Corbusier except Paris, the capital of the country of which he was a naturalized citizen. This is a great source of irritation to me as a native of London, a city which has taken much punishment from the Modern Movement of which Le Corbusier is part, or possibly all. Paris's wise decision not to allow itself to be razed by the Germans in 1940 meant that it did not have to be rebuilt after the war, a necessity which gave the modernists their chance in London and elsewhere.

I was passing the Opera the other day when four workmen emerged to load into a van the model of the new opera house to be built in the Place de la Bastille. Since we of the public had not been shown any of the projected designs, this was a chance to inspect it, especially since there was, as always in Paris, a delay in the loading while the men cursed one another, as to which bit should go first. The design was bold, exciting and full of windows - it is, in short, old fashioned Modern. Lovers of Paris's glories as we all are, I came away rather pleased that the city was no longer escaping lightly.



'Now Mr Milkwood will read his latest poem, The Battle of Ravens-craig'

Why Labour needs a pit ballot

by Jimmy Reid

For the great majority of people one issue overrides all others in the coalfields dispute: the miners' right to vote on whether they should be on strike. Everything else - the future of the industry, picketing - is secondary.

But even Labour's tendency to mistake the voice of the zealot for that of the common man cannot explain the extraordinary way that the party leadership has reacted to the dispute.

It is only a year or so since Labour was convulsed by a fierce debate on party democracy. The fight was won by those demanding wide-ranging democratic change. Labour MPs are now subject to mandatory reelection and the leader is elected by an electoral college representing the entire party.

For Labour, the issue of democracy is vital for reasons both practical and strategic. A major obstacle to the growth of socialist ideas in Britain and Western Europe is undoubtedly the fear of millions that socialism means a totalitarian, Soviet-style society in which talk of freedom and civil rights is a sham.

The electoral advance of a Labour Party with a left-wing programme for socialist change will largely be determined by its ability to convince people that it stands for democratic change. It must therefore

demonstrate a consistent fidelity to democratic principles.

All such talk and promises will sound hollow and hypocritical if Labour looks away and refuses to speak out when democratic rights are cynically denied to workers within a section of the labour movement itself.

Another aspect which must be troubling Labour is the way the NUM's national delegate conference has been used to circumvent a national ballot. The equivalent of what has been done in the NUM would be a majority vote in the House of Commons to cancel a general election on the grounds that Parliament is a higher body and does not need a mandate from the electorate.

Here was a test of Labour's commitment to democracy. But of the party leadership only Neil Kinnock has criticized the decision to abandon the ballot box. Indeed, the party's national executive has backed the strike without reservation, which must mean support for the refusal of a ballot.

Kinnock has argued that a ballot is necessary to make the miners' strike "coherent" and to make possible the level of support from other workers which is needed to win. Events have proved him right. In its

ninth week the strike is not yet solid and will not be so without a national ballot. Other workers are obviously reluctant to vote for action in support of miners on strike who still have not had a vote on whether they should be on strike.

All this can legitimately be interpreted as revealing a distressing disregard for democratic norms of behaviour and conduct inside the British labour movement. This, however, would be untrue. In private, many Labour MPs are bitterly opposed to what they describe as "Scargill's antics".

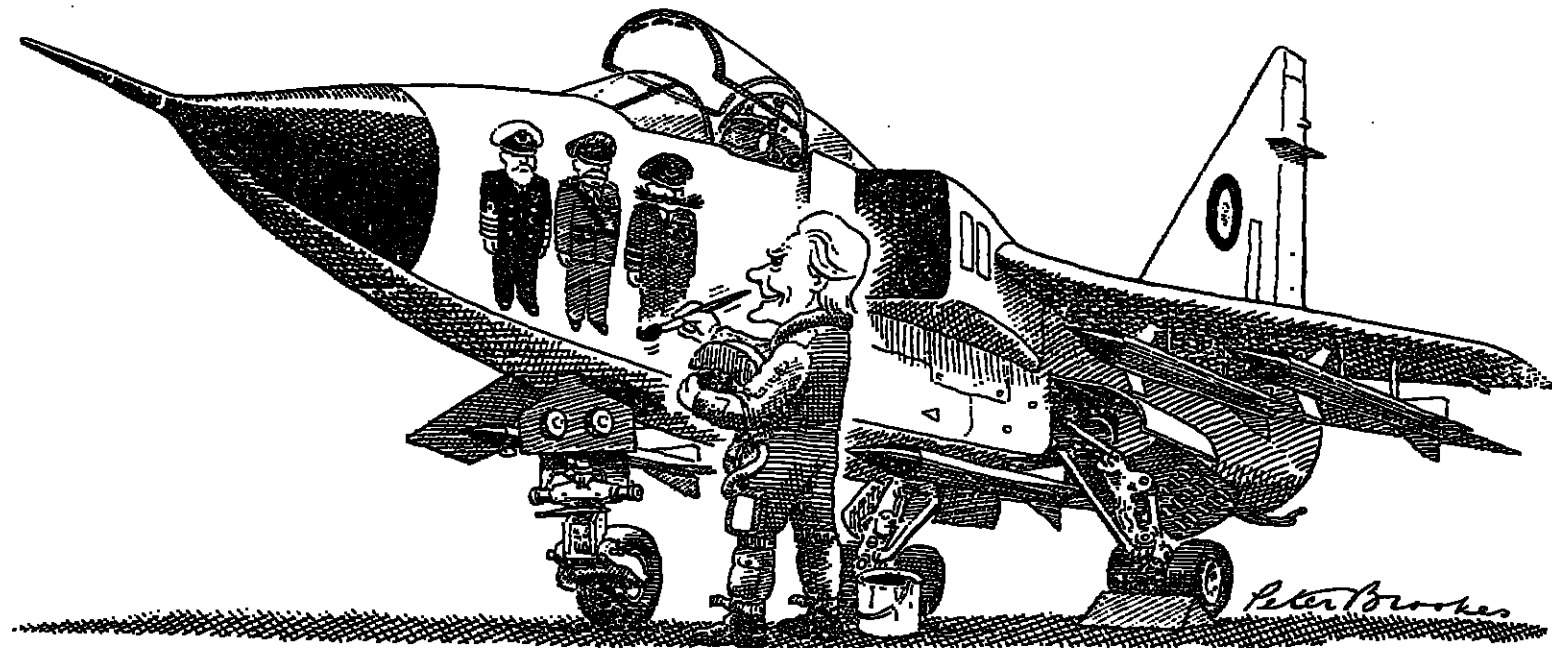
Why then, this contrast between private hostility and a public endorsement so sweeping as implicitly to include the rejection of a ballot? The answer is even more worrying. It is fear. To disagree with Arthur Scargill is viewed by the zealots inside the Labour party as treason, and the MPs are the most vulnerable.

If the party is seen to support or acquiesce with those who would deny democracy here and now to workers, how can a future Labour government be trusted with national democracy? It's no good saying, "Of course you can trust us". Deeds speak louder than words.

The author led the shipworkers' sit-in on the Upper Clyde in 1971. He resigned from the Communist Party in 1976 and joined Labour.

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Rodney Cowton on the ructions over top-level defence cuts



Can brass deflect a Heseltine misguided missile?

Emotions are beginning to run high at the Ministry of Defence. Before long even the stony bosoms of the female figures which dominate the main entrance will start to heave with the tensions generated as Mr Michael Heseltine's managerial revolution gets under way.

Not that he has actually achieved very much yet, as today's Statement on the Defence Estimates will reveal. But he has asked a lot of questions, his fingers have probed some delicate and fleshy areas of a corpulent defence establishment, and people are beginning to tremble at the prospect of the surgery which he will obviously demand.

The Ministry has been rather proud of its efforts to achieve economies and become cost conscious over the last 20 years. Long before Mr Heseltine arrived on the scene a senior civil servant could effortlessly tell you the cost of a marginal improvement in the quality of lavatory paper used throughout the services (£400,000 a year, if memory serves).

Mr Heseltine, however, is convinced that there is a lot of flab still to be found, though it may be tightly corseted and not easily visible, and he is intent on excising it. And if he has to stand on the patient's arms in order to examine the abdomen, well stoicism has long been recognized as a military virtue.

He is focusing particular attention on one area: his scheme, announced in outline in March, to reorganize the highest echelons of the Ministry and revolutionize the process of policy formation.

The details are now being worked out and will be revealed in a white paper in July, but in essence he aims to strip the Army, Navy and Air Force of their policy-forming staffs, and concentrate them under the wing of the Chief of Defence Staff, who rises supreme and imperial above the individual services.

This has already generated in the correspondence columns of *The Times* the biggest salvo from the lately great - retired Chiefs of Defence Staff. First Sea Lords and a minister - that has been fired since Sir John Nott in 1981 began

developing his plans to run down the Navy.

The viewpoints have varied, but even the most sympathetic to Mr Heseltine have warned against depriving the individual services of the ability to offer advice on strategy and policy.

Not only have many of the greatest names in British defence of the last 10 or 20 years joined in this demonstration of first-power, but others appear only to be biding their time before revealing their outright opposition to Mr Heseltine's scheme, or at least some highly pertinent questions.

But it is not only the greats of yesterday who are up in arms. There is believed to be anxiety in the Air Force Board of the Defence Council, and the Army Board is fuming and would undoubtedly fulminate too, but for the Official Secrets Act and a certain instinct for self-preservation.

Some months ago the Army decided that 1984 would be the year in which it would strap on its sharpest sword and compose its features into their leanest and meanest look. It was going to do its own stream-lining and never again would it be possible for anyone to accuse it of being top heavy.

But that has not deterred Mr Heseltine. The Army now fears that Mr Heseltine's scheme may delay the implementation of its own cuts, and that the two may not be entirely compatible.

All this is neatly encapsulated in the fact that the man charged with the primary responsibility for carrying through the Army's review, Lieutenant-General Sir James Glover, Vice-Chief of the General Staff, is himself in a post which Mr Heseltine intends to abolish.

There is no doubt at all that there is now great anger and apprehension about Mr Heseltine's designs. Whether later in the summer it will lead to resignations or demands for meetings with the Prime Minister it is too early to say.

It would certainly be wrong to dismiss the anxiety as simply that of men concerned with self-interest and career prospects, or from the other extreme, to argue that the whole exercise is irrelevant because the Ministry of Defence is an undelatable tyre which will quickly recover its old shape whatever you do to it.

There are serious issues at stake, for Mr Heseltine's plan constitutes the biggest top level shake-up since the individual service ministries were brought together in a unified Defence Ministry 20 years ago.

Many people are waiting to see the detailed elaboration of the scheme before forming a view, but others believe that even the outline scheme makes it clear that Mr Heseltine is heading in the wrong direction.

They argue that in recent years the balance of power and influence between the Chief of Defence Staff and the chiefs of the individual services has swung far enough in the direction of the CDS. In pursuing a tidy system Mr Heseltine may be in danger of shutting the door on the best advice, which can often emerge from conflicting interests vigorously pursued.

They believe he may be endangering the professionalism and morale of the individual services. They also argue that in the Falklands conflict the existing system came through the most rigorous test since the

Second World War with credit, and that it is nonsense now to tamper with the fundamentals of a tested system. Those not opposed in principle to a strengthening of the role of the Chief of Defence Staff will nevertheless require Mr Heseltine's detailed plan, when it emerges, to meet some important questions:

● If the CDS is to have sole responsibility for the formulation of policy recommendations and the conduct of operations in war, how are future occupants of that enhanced post to be selected and given the breadth of training and experience to fit them for it?

● Will the new hinge which Mr Heseltine is designing between policy formulation and management of the services be strong enough to cope with a severe crisis? Mr Heseltine plainly believes that the present system of policy formulation is cumbersome and rusty. But there are those who fear that the link in his new system will be so weak that with the first unpredicted stress the gate will fall off the hinge.

● How are operational requirements to be determined and resources allocated? The present system in which Chiefs of Staff wheel and deal for resources may be unmodified but given the extraordinarily difficult nature of the decisions to be taken, some fear that a managerially more tidy system will not necessarily be more efficient.

Ultimately what it is all about is the reconciliation of the tensions created by the fact that the Ministry of Defence is simultaneously a policy-forming department which has to get the best value it can out of a £17,000m budget - the second largest of any government department - and an operational headquarters which has to have the robustness and the reserves to be able to cope with the most severe test to which society is ever exposed: war.

The question is, can Mr Heseltine get the balance right. Some fear he is about to reveal the inadequacy of a purely commercial managerial approach to defence.

they are subjected to random lie tests to check possible theft.

What is bound to concern MPs is the lack of any rules, code of conduct or legislation to control the use of polygraphs in Britain. Mrs Thatcher has specifically ruled out "at present" the introduction of laws to control or limit their use. Barrett suggests that rules similar to those adopted by the American Polygraph Association, which has 1,500 members, would suffice.

"I don't like the idea of the polygraph," he admits "but it is necessary because lying and stealing have become so common that we need it to help people to be honest, as I am sure the vast majority would like to be."

Put bluntly, he says employee tolerance is equal to employer theft. Of course, an individual's right to privacy must be guarded and respected "but the need for society to protect its business, its job security, its hard-earned wages and its health, safety and welfare must be equally sacred."

As MPs begin their inquiries they will have to decide if Barrett's suggestions are realistic formulas for a big reduction in crime or a blueprint for an Orwellian nightmare.

Richard Evans

Ferdinand Mount

Discarding the seal of office

The circus poster looked odd, and rather stark. There were a couple of tigers, no prancing ponies, no Madame Fifi and her Amazing Performing Poodles. This was, in short, a circus without animals. The great Mr Gerry Cottle explained in a programme note: "The reason we can't even have a horse or a dog in the circus is that many local councils won't allow us to". Everyone agrees that it is still a marvellous circus, but it is not what it used to be.

You are still welcome to display orange-utens playing lacrosse, as long as you do not do it on council property. For councils may be as choosy as any private individual about what activities they permit on their land. And an increasing number of them choose not to entertain circuses that include so much as a performing flea. Islington Council has circulated an Animals Charter and is confident that its fellow Labour-controlled councils in inner London will join the ban which is already in force. I understand, in places as far-flung as Southend and Barrow-in-Furness, if it catches on across the country, the freedom to present a circus with animals may become purely notional, since for most of the year all the non-human performers would have to be in ruinously expensive kennels. Thus, in a surprisingly short time, the sight of a blonde on a peltard or a beach-ball on a seal's nose may well become a memory.

Observe the simplicity of the process. No need to bother Parliament. No wearisome bill with clauses and sub-clauses, no need to whip and lobby MPs. A mere resolution by the council is enough. For this is local democracy which is so tremendously "responsive" - or to put it another way "expedient" and "irresponsible". If Ken and Sue and Ted have a thing about animals in circuses, then we must all show solidarity.

"Local democracy" is different from parliamentary democracy in another way too. It is based on ownership. The local council tends to enjoy the fullness of power only on land and inside buildings which it actually owns: parks and ponds, libraries and schools and housing estates. Only on council property are front doors painted red by order. Little Black Sambo removed from the bookshelves and circus dogs banned from jumping through hoops. And therefore, the less council property and the smaller the arena for bossing people around, the better.

The good thing is that other forms of animal training appear to bask in municipal approval. Barbara Woodhouse has not yet been denounced to the authorities. In fact no fete these days is complete without some hander, usually carrying a few pounds overweight, running alongside Rover urging him on over the assault course. At the city's edge, every spare patch of thistles is pressed into service as a riding

school. Councils gladly offer their land and their assistance to horse shows and dog shows. The human itch to train anything - dogs, roses, footballers - is still widely regarded as an admirable trait.

How much of it all is done with kindness? Breaking in a horse is not an entirely painless exercise, nor is teaching a child a reliable backhand. And is it the training or the captivity that is objected to? Would you rather be a performing seal or one of Ken Livingstone's news? I am not sure, and nor, I suspect, is anyone else. If cruelty is alleged, is not the answer to strengthen the law against cruelty to animals in a straightforward way, or to ensure that it is properly enforced, rather than to extinguish a source of harmless enjoyment and employment for circus people who may well be as fond of animals as anyone who has ever said "sit"?

The trouble is that circuses are out of fashion. No progressive tears are shed the day the circus leaves town. If Nelly the Elephant packed her trunk and said goodbye to the circus, the Militant Tendency's animal rights group would applaud her liberation from capitalist exploitation. Yet they have circuses in the Soviet Union. Circus people are said to have gipsy blood in them, and gipsies are very much "in". Why are circuses so unmistakably out?

I suspect it is because circuses are associated with vulgar pleasure and with nothing else: a circus is simply a spectacle. It does not aim to improve or elevate us; unlike a gymnastic display, it does not demonstrate the glorious state of the nation's health; unlike folk-dancing, it does not pay homage to national tradition; unlike winning the World Cup, it does not mean We Are The Greatest.

It belongs to that realm of grubby commercial, innocent pleasure which irritates Prodnoses the world over: the world of comics and boiled sweets and Space Invaders and untipped cigarettes and the Eumvison Song Contest. I like to think of a Prodnoses Union Conference, which would bring together the most interfering sort of Tory MP with the most aggressive feminists and health campaigners: there they would all be preparing more and more ferocious plans for stopping people doing things.

Meanwhile, somewhere on the Welsh border where some sheep-countr council has turned a blind eye, the rest of us would be lying in the heather, in a haze of alcohol and nicotine, while all around children dazed on lollies and horror comics waited for the circus to begin. There would, of course, be lions and tigers and horses and elephants and monkeys. But there would also be parrots singing numbers from the Top Ten and seals in frocks performing risqué sketches, and dolphins diving for cornucopias. Later in the evening there would be kangaroo racing.

Anne Sofer

Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner

"But can we afford London?" asked a fellow guest at a dinner party recently. And predictably I choked with outrage over my chilli con carne. When I had controlled myself I charged him with all sorts of reactionary tendencies, the least of which was a desire to tease earnest women councillors.

But although I bridle at any suggestion that London, particularly inner-London, does not deserve more economic support, I have to admit on reflection that the question is legitimate, even though the answer may still be yes.

Do cities any longer make economic sense? Their historic *raison d'être* - ports and crossroads and centres of industry - having been superseded by the new geography of orbital motorways and micro-electronic communication, what is now to keep them alive?

One short answer to that is - politics. Decaying big cities are becoming a more and more necessary factor in the party political game. Labour needs them to preserve its support; the Conservatives need them to ensure that Labour's most visible performers are sufficiently left-wing to frighten off everyone outside those municipal bastions.

The Government has over the last five years withdrawn hundreds of millions of pounds from the big cities, and now plans, through rate-capping, to ensure that services are further reduced. It looks like - and indeed a cynic would say it is - a deliberate policy to create conditions in which talk of anarchy and confrontation flourishes. One can only assume that Mrs Thatcher is watching with equanimity, not to say rubbing her hands with glee, as one Labour group after another falls under the domination of Liverpool-style quasirevolutionaries.

As for Labour's need of the big cities, it goes deeper even than traditional electoral support. There is also the close identification of a New Left with the public sector white-collar unions. I could not, if I tried, put the argument more savagely than it has been put by one of their own internal critics. A paper produced two years ago by a group of south London Fabians (*Labour's Divisions - their social roots: Dulwich Discussion Documents*) portrays the New Left as a sort of latter-day colonial civil service: children of the middle classes providing themselves with an ever-increasing number of jobs by convincing everyone concerned of the utter dependence and incompetence of the native population.

"For a group making its living out of the management of poverty," the author drily points out, "a high and sustained level of poverty is the first requisite".

Both these political portraits are parodies. But that there is something in them explains why no fundamental discussions on the future nature of cities is being held both sides have too high a stake in the status quo.

There is considerable muddle and confused thinking about what that status quo in fact is. For instance, it is common for London politicians to point to the density of population as an indicator of stress and deprivation: "Look at our tightly-packed, 'problem-ridden' areas," we cry; "they demonstrate that we need more resources". But at the same time we are all wringing our hands over the depopulation that has taken place over the last 20 years, with its trail of school and hospital closures. "Look at our dying metropolises," we cry, "bring back all the factories and workshops and the skilled craftsmen who have left for the new towns." Do we know what we want, or have we no vision of what a city should be?

I am not talking about blueprints or development plans, and all that committee fodder that gathers dust in municipal archives, but more about imagery. Throughout history, from the vision of battlemented white towers on a distant hill as in a renaissance painting, to the glitter and raucous vulgarity of New York's Broadway in the 1930s, "the city" has been an idea to quicken the pulse and lift the heart: it is a quality of excitement which London, on a warm spring evening, still abundantly has. Yet there is a danger now that the very word "city" will become associated only with negative images: decay, crime, vandalism, racial tension and despair.

To retain, or regain, their magnetism, cities are going to have to adapt to new economic facts of life in ways we can only dimly perceive at present. Maybe they will become places people choose to live in because they like city life rather than places they are forced to live in for housing or employment reasons. Maybe there will be as much countering of as countering in. But whatever happens we must get away from the habit of seeing "inner city policy" as a matter of managing a static social institution. There is - or could be - plenty of life in the old metropolis yet.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/JILEA for St Pancras North.

Cross my graph and hope to die

Britain's hard-pressed spy catchers are not alone in resorting to the polygraph lie detector to weed out suspects. A small but growing number of businessmen are doing the same. According to a recently retired chief constable, workers steal a total of £300m a year from their employers, and up to a third of all business failures are the result of employees' dishonesty. Some recent polygraph tests:

● A London property developer lost two deals at critical moments. Tests revealed that a member of the staff been passing information to a relative working for a rival firm.

● After losing £3,000 in takings in one day, a fast-food chain suspended six employees and offered them lie tests. Five accepted. The sixth refused, at the last minute. It transpired that he had served two prison sentences for theft which he had not disclosed when applying for the job. He was dismissed.

● After an unsuccessful police investigation into the disappearance of valuables worth £45,000, a Home Counties firm used a polygraph to pinpoint the culprit - who admitted much more besides.

The examples are provided by Jeremy Barrett, former SAS officer and director of the British School of

Motoring, who last summer set up Polygraph Security Services. The first lie-detector firm in Britain. His services have been used by 70 companies, and so far he claims a 100 per cent success rate.

This week he will appear, with his lie detector, before the Commons select committee on employment, which is starting an investigation into the polygraph's implications for industrial relations and employment.

To the accusation that polygraph tests are an invasion of privacy, Barrett says they have to be voluntary, with all questions agreed in advance.

"People have to realize the polygraph is not Big Brother, the Spanish Inquisition, or some kind of torture implement. It is a scientific instrument. Objects seem to feel that a suspect has the right to lie, but the machine does not have the right to catch him."

What is crucial is the skill and expertise of the operator, who has to interpret the change in the interviewee's respiration, blood pressure and skin moisture as recorded by the detector. John Dicker, a retired detective sergeant who trained for three months in the United States last year, is at present the firm's sole

expert who decides, from the squiggles recorded on the graph paper, if someone is being truthful or not.

Barrett says: "Overall, a 100 per cent success cannot be guaranteed because one must account for the occasional psychopath who really believes he is telling the truth. But if the polygraphist is well trained, competent and experienced, it is near enough 100 per cent as makes no difference."

His case for extending the use of the polygraph along American lines, where it is used by about half of all shops, is simple, if not simplistic.

He guarantees that the use of the polygraph, in three different ways, can reduce by 80 per cent losses caused by staff stealing from shops.

First, he offers pre-employment screening tests. More than eight out of 10 people seeking jobs tell lies, he says. Usually they are small ones, such as exaggerating educational qualifications or present salary. But often past dishonesty is kept secret.

Secondly, he provides specific investigations into theft of cash, merchandise or company secrets. Lastly, he offers an "honesty maintenance programme". In effect an amnesty is granted to a company's workforce after which



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NINETEEN NINETY-SEVEN

In trying to reach agreement with China over Hongkong, the British government faces an awkward, even wretched, dilemma. China's claim to sovereignty over Hongkong is in the end incontestable, not least because the British-held lease on most of the colony is due to expire in thirteen years time. And it is made more acceptable by China's promise that it will preserve the present Hongkong system intact for fifty years after 1997. For this reason the British government is sensible to acknowledge, as the Foreign Secretary did in Hongkong late last month, that "it would not be realistic to think of an agreement that provides for British administration in Hongkong after 1997". The dilemma lies in the fact the government is seeking an agreement that is not only acceptable to Britain and China, but also to the people of Hongkong. And a large proportion of Hongkong's five million or so people have the gravest doubts about an agreement that would place Hongkong under the control of China.

It would not do to portray the feelings of Hongkong people in black-and-white terms. Most of the colony's predominantly Cantonese population have a vague sense of loyalty to China, and more specifically to Guangdong province, across the border from Hongkong, of which they are culturally and linguistically a part. And although a large number of them have left China, legally or illegally, during the past thirty years, many have done so in search of economic betterment rather than as political refugees. Nor do most ordinary people in Hongkong identify themselves in any but the remotest way with the British administration there. But the fact remains that most people in Hongkong know enough about how the Communist Party has ruled China since 1949 to worry about their future after 1997, and to want the firmest possible

assurances that the status quo in Hongkong will be maintained after the British leave.

Some of Hongkong's worries and doubts have been conveyed to London during the past week or so by two visiting delegations from the territory. The delegations have represented very different social strata, and have addressed themselves to two very different, but equally important, issues. The first, made up of appointed members of the colony's two main organs of government, the Executive and Legislative Councils, has been pressing for firmer guarantees for the future than they believe the China-British agreement now being negotiated will provide. They have asked for an agreement that would spell out in precise detail the ways in which Hongkong's present legal, social and economic systems will be maintained after 1997, and would provide working assurances of its own inviolability. They also want to see the 2½ million or so holders of British Dependent Territory passports in Hongkong given the right of settlement in the United Kingdom.

The councillors' views have been supplemented by those of the other delegation, made up of representatives of students, community groups and other grassroot organizations. This second delegation has been calling for the swift creation of a properly-functioning democratic machinery in Hongkong, so that when China institutes a system of "Hongkong governed by Hongkong people", as it promises to do after 1997, Hongkong will have a sufficiently sturdy democracy to defend its new-found autonomy.

These are all entirely worthy aims; but some are more practicable than others. Many are already shared by the British government. Sir Geoffrey Howe made it clear in Hongkong last month, for example, that Britain wants an agreement with China

that will formally record detailed arrangements for the post-1997 period. And both Chinese and British officials in Hongkong have intimated that the territory needs to develop a greater degree of democracy between now and 1997.

So far the British authorities in Hongkong have been very cautious about moving too fast towards a more democratic system there, apparently because they are afraid of offending Chinese communist susceptibilities. Certainly Peking will only accept democracy in Hongkong on its own terms - that is, a limited democracy, carefully controlled. But the British authorities there should not let this become a pretext for doing too little and too late.

There are other demands which, unfortunately, no British government could accede to. It is beyond the power of any government, either in London or in Peking, to guarantee absolutely the course of events in the next century. One can only note that Peking has always been scrupulous in observing international agreements. Its assurances about Hongkong will be given within the framework of such an agreement, and its international reliability will thus depend on their implementation. That is in itself a form of guarantee.

There are also practical political limits to what can be done for British Dependent Territory passport-holders and - while every effort must be made to open Britain's doors to those in Hongkong with convincing reasons to fear the future, or to find homes for them elsewhere - it is better to acknowledge this sad fact than to pretend otherwise. With a draft Sino-British agreement now only a few months away, it is important to strike the right balance between what is needed and what is feasible. When the House of Commons comes to debate Hongkong later this week it will serve the people of the colony best by bearing this in mind.

TURKEY CONDEMNED BUT NOT SANCTIONED

"History will recall how a community fighting for nothing but its liberty has been treated by this body," said Mr Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, commenting on the resolution passed by the UN Security Council on Friday night. He called it a "Greek-Cypriot resolution supported by people who do not know where Cyprus is".

In point of fact most of those who supported the resolution know all too well where Cyprus is, and few better than the government of the United Kingdom. Any who might not have been fully up to date on the Cyprus problem had the benefit of an admirably detailed and clear report from the Secretary-General, circulated on May 2. In it he gave an account of the latest phase of his "good offices" mission - the phase that followed the Security Council's condemnation of the Turkish Cypriot UDI last November.

However negative in itself, the UDI did at least have the merit of reviving international concern about the Cyprus issue. Encouraged both by the Turkish government and by President

Kyprianou, the Secretary-General worked out a scenario under which the UDI would be not abrogated but frozen ("there will be no follow-up") pending the outcome of his diplomatic efforts, while in return the Greek side would abstain from any "further step to internationalise the Cyprus problem" - something the Turkish side always objects to.

But Mr Denktaş, when presented with this scenario in March, replied that if his side were to "refrain from proceeding with the implementation of the natural and legal consequences of its declaration of independence" then in return the Greek side should "refrain from falsely asserting that it is the government of the whole of Cyprus" and agree to refrain from all conduct appertaining to such an assumption, in other words should discard the only bargaining counter it has to offer in exchange for the withdrawal of thirty thousand Turkish troops, namely its monopoly of international legitimacy.

Even while negotiations were proceeding on these points between him and the Secretary-General, Mr Denktaş announced

on April 10 that his community would go ahead with a constitutional referendum and then elections, and on April 17 formal diplomatic relations were established between his state and the Republic of Turkey.

As Señor Pérez de Cuéllar puts it, "the developments outlined in this report speak for themselves". Mr Denktaş, as has long been obvious to anyone who follows his conduct in detail rather than merely listens to his rhetoric, does not want a federal solution. He prefers to be the president of his Lilliputian state. The Turkish government might prefer a federal solution in theory but finds it easier politically to support Mr Denktaş. The United States would prefer a negotiated solution of some sort, but finds it strategically inexpedient to have a serious argument with Turkey; hence the American abstention on Friday night. Other powers would like the Turkish attitude to be different but do not see anything practical they can do about it. So the Turks are condemned but not sanctioned, and the UN system loses a little more of its credibility.

THE VIEW FROM CABLE STREET

The best place to watch the London Marathon is half-way down the course in Cable Street, Stepney, where the East Enders go. The road is narrow, lived-in and legendary for an altogether nastier spectacle, the famous 1936 battle between the police and anti-fascists determined to erect a barricade against a march by Mosley's British Union of Fascists. Yesterday the sun shone, the police were affable, a steel band played and produced an electric effect on the runners. Mr Jonathan Aitken, MP, gave the schoolchildren beating their drums a gracious wave, others jiggled, many adjusted their pace to the rhythm, nearly all smiled. A schoolteacher from a nearby borough stopped and adopted a mock athletic pose for his adoring pupils cheering at the roadside. Athletes carried placards advertising charities (there was one supporting the miners). There were horses, a Mickey Mouse, Superman and a longship-shaped phalanx of Vikings. Once the front-runners had swept by, it was easy to forget in Cable Street that this was one of the great events in the world marathon calendar.

In four years the London Marathon has become an institution in a country where it usually takes centuries rather than decades to become a tradition. It is now as much of a

feature of the sporting year as Henley, Ascot and Wimbledon. Already it has an air of timelessness. It would be highly unfortunate, therefore, if the abolition of the Greater London Council, which plays an important year-round administrative role in supporting the marathon, damaged its smooth continuation. Seven London boroughs are traversed by the runners. Each will receive a share of yesterday's profits of £50,000. If no post-GLC contingency plan is in place, a file should be opened today by Mr Christopher Brasher and Mr John Disley, the founding fathers of the race. Next year's marathon seems secure. But Mr Brasher reckons a race with so many finishers could not be staged in 1986 and beyond without the continuation of County Hall.

The London Marathon is the most visible part of a wider phenomenon - the running boom that has hit Britain in the past decade. Last year 136 marathons were run in the United Kingdom involving an estimated 149,000 finishers - from the 15,775 who crossed the line in London to the 30 who completed the course in the Isles of Scilly. London is by no means the toughest on the athletes. That honour seems to be shared by the Snowdonia and Duchy (of Cornwall) marathons with 460 and 142 finishers respectively.

Behind these statistics lie thousands of individual training regimes, carrying people through the dark and cold, the blazing sunshine and heat.

The charm of long-distance running, however, remains lost on many non-participants despite the general surge in popularity and the appeal of television coverage. It certainly lives up to its cliché and appeals to loners wishing to pit themselves in solitude against extremes and fierce exertion. Many recoil from the jostling procession through city streets that London witnessed yesterday, preferring an empty river bank or country road. It is just about the most efficient way of undertaking hard exercise. Looking at the footwear, for example, the advances made since Mr Jim Peters in the early 1950s used to break the world record in the Polytechnic Marathon in a pair of plimsolls bought from Woolworths, are astounding. But the capital equipment required, unless you are a real faddist, is still very simple - vest, shorts and trainers. The local authorities provide the roads. The rest - muscle, lungs, grit - is up to you. It would be a pity if the running boom faded like hula-hoops or skateboards. It is a heartening, stirring phenomenon as anyone who witnessed the fourth London Marathon will tell.

Sectional views in mining industry

From Mr Joe Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw (Labour)

Sir, For nine weeks now my constituency of Bassetlaw, North Nottinghamshire, has been a no-mans land between the Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire miners.

Children, especially since the disruption of free school meals by the teachers, are living on soup or beans.

Nationally, well over 2,000 miners have been arrested and usually handcuffed, imprisoned, photographed and fingerprinted, personally detained by police and refused permission to visit pits in my own constituency on a "freedom ride" to show a busload of journalists what was happening.

Yet the Prime Minister, who, on the steps of Downing Street promised to bring harmony into discord, does nothing.

It is obvious the Nottinghamshire miners will not strike without a ballot because they work in long-life pits. Against this we have the miners of Wales and Kent and Scotland saying why should a Nottinghamshire miner in a safe pit have a vote to put them out of a job?

What is not generally realized is that coalfields are competitive. The closure of one pit can mean a sigh of relief in another. To insist on a national ballot is as logical as demanding that members of the NUJ on *The Sunday Times* should have a vote on the future of *The Observer*.

However, there is one simple proposal the Prime Minister could make to get the two sides around the table. That is to offer a substantial reduction in the price of electricity. It would keep pits open, help our industry to compete with foreign goods, bring down inflation, and might even gain Mrs Thatcher lots of votes from pensioners.

The savings on the high redundancy pay and life-long unemployment, plus the current surcharge on gas, electricity, and North Sea oil, would easily absorb it. So would cancelling the Sizewell nuclear power station which we don't need.

We have so much energy in this country it ought to be coming out of the plug on the wall like water out of a tap, with each sector being used to co-ordinate into an energy policy which is best for Britain.

Yet, unlike any other businessman who cuts the price when there is a glut, including farmers and the EEC, the Government keeps the price of energy high, sacrificing thousands of jobs, to provoke punch-ups on picket lines.

Harmony into discord? Tell it to the kids living on soup, Mrs Thatcher.

Yours sincerely,
JOE ASHTON,
House of Commons.

Grim outlook for arts

From Professor Sir Ernst Gombrich, FBA

Sir, Wealds Bell (May 4) should not be allowed to confuse the issue raised by Professor Berthoud's warning (April 27) about the future of the arts.

Granted that we educators must never be complacent while the majority of our fellow citizens have found no access to the riches of great literature, great art or great music, should not this sad situation make us resist all the more those ominous moves to deprive the flickering lamps of civilization of the last drop of this financial fuel?

Yours etc.
E. H. GOMBRICH,
19 Brandale Gardens, NW3.
May 4.

Ultra in the East

From Mr James Rusbridger

Sir, Before Professor Hinsley writes his final account of Allied signals (report, May 3) intelligence in the last war, I hope he will be allowed to include details of operations in the Far East. The Foreign Office still refuses to release any Japanese Ultra for public inspection claiming that to do so would not be in the public interest.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES RUSBRIDGER,
7 Tremena Road,
St Austell,
Cornwall.

Captain Oates's medal

From the Colonel of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards

Sir, Your Sale Room Correspondent's article of May 5 about the sale of Captain Oates's Polar Medal prompts me to write to say that his regiment, the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, is quickly forming a fund to buy the medal.

I am glad to say that we are fairly convinced of success. We have the backing of the Gilbert White and Oates Memorial Museum at Shelborne and indeed that of the Oates family and are very happy that one of the major national museums is likely to be able to help us to a most noteworthy extent. I am, of course, seeking help wherever I can find it.

In our determination to find the funds to buy the medal, our belief that this regiment is the fitting holder of this significant award is sustained by the entry in Captain Scott's diary:

Oates' last thoughts were of his mother, but immediately before he took pride in thinking that his Regiment would be pleased with the bold way in which he met his death.

We are indeed proud of him and, as you may know, to this day celebrate annually his example of courage, both in the regiment and in London.

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN FINDLAY,
Home Headquarters,
5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards,
Upmeadow Lodge,
Grimston,
Peworth, West Sussex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Checks and balances for Ireland

From Mr J. E. Hamilton

Sir, Mr Peter Jay's forthright presumption (May 4) that (a) Westminster has the right to act without the consent of the people of Northern Ireland and (b) expressing the opinion that a democratic united Ireland is a solution, would somehow lead Ulster Protestants to think constructively seems, to say the least, paradoxical.

I do not follow how being robbed of your nationality against your will and then being propelled into adopting another nationality that you plainly do not want would encourage a single Loyalist to think positively at all.

Peter Jay, having discovered that it is not very rewarding to keep say, half a million Irish people against their will as citizens of the United Kingdom, seeks apparently to double the error by consigning about a million British people against their will to citizenship of a united Ireland.

The nationalistic link of these half million Irish proved capable of withstanding 60 years of indoctrination by the UK. Peter Jay gives not one scrap of evidence to suggest that the British in Ireland, summarily sold off, will not prove as determined, and indigestible to his State of Ireland.

What we learn from this is that any permanent settlement must contain checks and balances to prevent the majority - any majority - from repeating those unhealthy practices.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HAMILTON,
Avonmore,
West Glen Road,
Kilmacoll,
Renfrewshire,
May 9.

Council polls and PR

From Professor Ivor Gowan

Sir, I am surprised that little has been said by either side in the present controversy over the future of local government about the advantages that might accrue from the introduction of proportional representation into the local electoral system.

The recent round of elections has demonstrated that "first past the post" allows extremists to gain power to a greater extent than is likely at the national level. Liverpool is a good example where the political consequences of Labour's gain of seats bears little relation to the change of votes cast for each party.

Current Government policy in the local government field reflects widespread public concern about the way in which some counties and districts are run. The appropriate ministers have quite legitimately attempted to influence policy and to induce restraint by their handling of the taxpayers' contribution to local finance by way of Exchequer grants.

But it is at least questionable whether the proposed rate-capping Bill and the abolition of the GLC and metropolitan counties will not entail more long-term disadvantages than short-term gains.

In the current climate of uncertainty and division, even on the Government side, it is not too late for all concerned to consider

Civil Service pay claim

From Mr John Coleman

Sir, In a civilized society it is really unacceptable for public servants to go on strike - at least for more pay.

I believe the Government would be wise to index-link the wages and salaries of essential public servants: doctors, nurses, schoolteachers, firemen, etc. This would not be contrary to monetarist policies, indeed it would reinforce them and create additional control over wage increases in the private sector.

If I own a factory those working within it are directly my employees. The fireman who comes when my factory is on fire is indirectly my employee. I want to be absolutely sure he will arrive when I need him and if I know his wages will rise when I increase the wages of my direct employees, I will take into account the tax I pay for him in my

Mr Botha's visit

From the Director General of the Africa Centre

Sir, Your comment (leading article, May 8) on Prime Minister Botha's invitation to Downing Street poses many questions. For example, is it really open to "philosophical dispute without end" that a system discriminating on the basis of the colour of a man's skin is possibly no worse than one that discriminates on the basis of opinions and beliefs?

There can at least be a semblance of intellectual justification for opposing a person's ideas - governments and individuals to some degree restrict the individual's freedom on this basis all the time - but to legislate against someone and to deny him fundamental liberties because he dislikes his hue is unjust, unreasonable and inhuman.

Similarly your editorial wonders whether there are rational grounds for condemning Mr Botha's forthcoming visit unless one is dedicated to "the total overthrow of the system" in South Africa rather than to its "evolution". You imply that only extremists could take such a view, but I doubt if any decent person could hold back from utter condemnation of a system based on discrimination by pigmentation and which to date has supplied no evidence of a serious commitment towards eventual equality of the races.

The invitation to Mr Botha thus gives the impression that Downing Street (a) is concerned about colour differences as any worse a basis for forming a national policy than any other, and (b) sees genuine progress within South Africa towards racial equality.

Though it is a standard argument

Scoring points in the Olympics

From Dom David Morland, OSB

Sir, The Soviet Union would be better advised to prove the superiority of the Communist system to American capitalism by sending their athletes to Los Angeles and winning medals rather than by staying away.

After all if ever there was a regime where a boycott might have been justified, it was that of Hitler's Germany and yet in the Berlin Olympics of 1936 the refutation of the myth of white Aryan supremacy was far more effectively achieved by Jesse Owens' victories than by any refusal to attend.

Yours etc,
DAVID MORLAND,
Gilling Castle,
Aberystwyth,
May 11

From Mr John Heller

Sir, At the risk of appearing to take an over-simplistic view of the matter, might I ask what is the dramatic change in the Soviet stance in Afghanistan over the past four years which makes the Americans so keen to compete in Los Angeles in 1984 against Russian athletes whom they shunned in Moscow in 1980?

Should we not rather take some comfort from the fact that the absence of heavily state-subsidized athletes from the Eastern bloc countries might turn the Olympics back closer to their genuine amateur ideals and origins?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HELLER,
11 Childs Street, SW5,
May 11.

From Mrs E. D. Horsfall

Sir, The naive and aggrieved astonishment which has greeted the decision by the Soviet Union to withdraw from the Olympic Games is remarkable. What other course could they pursue with dignity?

They are vilified and denigrated round the clock by the Americans, their accredited representative to the games was refused entry to the USA three months ago and now their athletes are being threatened in person by sections of the public. No country could subject its young people to such an ordeal; they could not give of their best - not even the stoical and disciplined Russians!

This is no quid pro quo for 1980, but a measured decision and one, maybe, that will throw some cold water on transatlantic hysteria in the future. It is said that even a worm will turn eventually; one should not expect mere endurance from a bear!

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
BETTY HORSFALL,
Milling House,
Avburyton,
Lydney,
Gloucestershire,
May 9.

From Mr H. Sabath

Sir, Your Sports Correspondent, Mr David Miller, concludes his article on the Russian withdrawal from the Olympic games (May 9) with the statement that "it makes the action of the British team in 1980 of refusing to be politically manoeuvred that much more creditable".

Nothing of the sort: what it makes creditable is the attitude of the British Government, which recommended withdrawal but left it to the conscience of individual athletes to make the final decision. As a result many participated, some not.

May I suggest that if the Soviet Government allowed the same freedom of action to Russian athletes the present conflict would be speedily settled.

But, of course, the British Government did not fear that athletes would abscond. . . .

Yours sincerely,
H. SABATH,
41 Meadow, NW11,
May 9.

Fair price for books

From Mr M. F. M. Evans

Sir, If the operation of the net book agreement (NBA) is to be discussed, let it be the NBA that exists, not the NBA of myth.

Mr Vernon (May 9) misleads by implication. The NBA allows, but does not compel, publishers to fix a price below which a book may not be sold. It does not fix the discount allowed to booksellers; they are free to negotiate the best purchase price they can get.

There are no such things as "net terms" of discount. The book may then be sold at any price equal to or greater than the net price.

The objective of the NBA is to prevent the strong competing with the weak by cutting prices. But the state of the trade may lead one to doubt that it is what is required to enable small bookshops to survive.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN F. MARIX EVANS,
Blakes,
Much Hadham,
Hertfordshire,
May 9.

Flourishing elms

From Mr J. P. C. Sankey-Barker

Sir, Welcome as is any news of extensive elm survival, I fear that the specimens of *Ulmus glabra* your correspondent (May 7) saw on his recent visit to the Black Mountains are but a remnant of what once existed. Thousands of dead wych elm (doubtless mainly *glabra*) have already been removed from those mountain valleys. Even in the Llanthony valley, most of the mountain slopes above the Abbey have perished, above the adjoining Gwynne-fair valley is still full of dead elms. Though *glabra* stools continue to sprout suckers, one notes that all too many promising saplings eventually succumb.

I am, yours faithfully,
J. P. C. SANKEY-BARKER,
Plas Llangatock,
Crickhowell,
Powys,
May 8.

Gatwick express

Probably the most annoying aspect of air travel, aside from the cost, is the extra time spent getting to and from the airport: a longer time, on many short-haul routes, than the flight itself. From today the British Airports Authority and British Rail are doing their best to sweeten the pill with the inauguration of the Gatwick Express.

The Gatwick Express shaves up to 12 minutes off the previous travel time between Victoria station and Gatwick airport, a time saving of 29 per cent. The new non-stop service takes 30 minutes and operates at 15 minute intervals throughout the day. (Night services will continue hourly, at the previous speeds, between midnight and 0530.)

There is more to the new service than speed and convenience, however. British Rail likes to think that it has created a package that will "complement the style, luxury and convenience of air travel". Gatwick, the world's fifth busiest international airport, is the only one in this country where the railway station has been built as an integral part of its facilities. From today the "integration" of the passenger will begin at Victoria.

Platforms 13 and 14 will serve the Gatwick Express

A faster and more comfortable non-stop rail service opens today between London's Victoria Station and Gatwick Airport.

exclusively, and nearby will be a special rail/air ticket office separate from those used by the majority of Victoria's 150,000 passengers daily, with a separate waiting lounge for Gatwick passengers.

The new trains themselves, which will travel at speeds up to 90mph, comprise an electric locomotive hauling seven second class passenger coaches and one first class plus a baggage van. Seats total 392 second class and 41 first class per train.

The rolling stock has been kitted out in a distinctive "livery" of dark and light grey, red and white, with the air traveller in mind, carriage doors have been made extra wide, interior sliding doors are automatic and, in addition to the baggage car, what British Rail describes as "an extravagance of luggage space" has been built in overhead and between the seats.

Plenty of leg-room (and reclining seats in first class), multi-lingual information signs including Chinese, a public address system, and special rail staff including hostesses, further the impression of pampered exclusivity. Ticket checks will be carried out on the train to spare Gatwick Passengers the queues and blockages at other platforms.

British Rail carries about two fifths of Gatwick's 12 million air-line passengers annually. By the 1990s, when the second terminal is fully operational, the total is expected to double. The airport has processed as many as 70,000 passengers in one day, 30,000 of them travelling by train.

Unsurprisingly, the recently completed £11m modernization at the airport and station has taken account of those figures.

The concourse is built over the six station platforms; its eight-window ticket office serves any British Rail station. A travel centre next door offers, in addition to its comprehensive rail information service, bookings for train journeys virtually anywhere in Europe, including sleeping car, Motorail, Sealink car and passenger ferries, and the Hoverspeed cross-channel service. There are more than 150 check-in desks. (Incoming passengers can put to good use

the time spent waiting for their baggage from the plane: rail tickets are on sale at a special desk.)

For the time being, British Caledonian passengers will have an edge on the others: they will be able to check their heavier luggage in at Victoria, whence it will travel direct to the aircraft via the luggage van on the train.

The service is hoped to be extended to all Gatwick passengers in due course.

Departing and arriving passengers are well catered for. Once past security and passport checks, international passengers are offered a 24-hour service at buffet, bar and bookstall, as well

as the usual duty-free shopping. In-bound passengers, once through one of the 20 immigration desks, can wait comfortably in a "buffer lounge" (with pay phones and courtesy phones for car-hire and hotel bookings).

The usual banks, bookshop, Post Office and information desks are open on the main concourse level in the terminal, but catering facilities have been separated to relieve congestion in the check-in area. Above the concourse on the third floor are two buffets and bars, a pantry that sells salads and sandwiches, a 24-hour fast food unit and a restaurant.

Gatwick's facilities for dis-

abled passengers have earned awards from the British Tourist Authority and the Central Council for the Disabled. A leaflet published by the British Airports Authority, *Who Looks After You at Gatwick Airport?*, spells out those facilities with diagrams and minimum access measurements.

The leaflet also maps the locations of lifts and toilets for disabled passengers, shows ramp gradients, and explains such special facilities as telephones at wheelchair-level and an inductive loop system to help people with hearing aids hear announcements.

The Gatwick Express mirrors

this pride in facilities for the disabled, in the availability of wheelchairs and luggage trolleys and in the wider doors and gangways on the trains.

With its 67 second class coaches, 10 first class and 10 baggage vans, the Gatwick Express is a feature of "Operation New Look", a £120m track and signalling scheme for the London-Brighton line. When the project is completed, the whole of the line will be controlled by two computer-operated, electronically controlled centres at Clapham Junction and at Three Bridges.

The Gatwick Express will

then be "the fastest, most reliable and direct city centre to airport connection in the country," according to British Rail.

There is no supplementary charge for the service. Second class fares between London Victoria and Gatwick are £3.30 adult single, £6.60 return; children under five travel free, or at half fare up to 15 years. First class fares are 50 per cent more than second class. Through tickets to Gatwick can be bought at any London Underground station, at the normal Victoria-Gatwick fare plus the tube fare to Victoria.

Tony Samstag

Fast, frequent and comfortable

All over the world greater emphasis is being put these days on good high-speed surface links between airports and the cities they serve. This is partly no doubt because of environmental reasons new airports tend to be sited ever farther from centres of population. But no doubt too it owes something to the realization what a nonsense it is, as the latest jet airliners steadily improve the speed and quality of the flight, that so much of the total journey time can be taken up by slow and inefficient land connections at either end.

For 50 years Gatwick has been struggling to establish itself as a major international airport while suffering from the twin drawbacks of a poor geographical position - 28 miles from London compared with 15 to Heathrow and on the opposite side of the capital from the other main centres of population in the Midlands, west and north - and poor land connections.

Travelling by road between Gatwick and central London has meant struggling through a throng of suburban shopping centres with pedestrian crossings, traffic lights and traffic jams for much of the day, while travelling from the northern Home Counties that provide much of its catchment area has until recently been even more of a nightmare.

Travelling by rail has been much better, but still, until today, far short of what has come to be expected by international travellers elsewhere.

Gatwick was in fact the first airport anywhere in the world to have its own railway station. But from the time it started to operate in 1935 it has merely been one of a string along the London-Brighton line, using much the same rolling stock terminals, and timetables as the other stopping and commuter services of one of Britain's busiest railways.

That in the face of these obstacles Gatwick has succeeded in establishing itself as Britain's second international airport and the world's fifth owes much to its sheer attractiveness and efficiency as an airport as well as the steady growth in international traffic through London.

High-grade and air-conditioned

From today however, Gatwick's inherent attractiveness as an airport will be greatly enhanced by a surface connection of like quality. The new Gatwick Express - fast, frequent, and comfortable - will provide the kind of surface connection it would have had to start with were these things being done now.

Though not completely new, the trains are high-grade air-conditioned inter-city stock newly refurbished, with special attention to baggage storage on the train, and ease of access and egress. The trains will run every 15 minutes throughout the day and much of the night. And as a result of a huge modernization by British Rail in track and signalling on the Brighton Line, the interruptions and delays suffered by travellers should be eliminated.

Without this new investment the railways could hardly have hoped to hold on to their third share of Gatwick traffic as the airport continues to expand, especially when completion of

London's M25 orbital motorway will greatly improve road access from London and the north in two years' time.

Now, the four million passengers out of the airport's annual total of 12 to 13 million currently reach Gatwick by rail are expected to rise to about eight million out of 25 million by the 1990s when Gatwick's second terminal will be open.

For British Rail, that means additional revenue of around £25m at 1984 prices by the mid-1990s.

An even better passenger service

For that reason there was much talk of privatizing the route two or three years ago, and handing over terminals and trains to a private sector operator who it was thought would put in extra capital investment and marketing and business skills to make it even better than the service passengers will begin to enjoy today.

Although the Government's zeal for privatization of public assets has not faded, this particular project seems to have fallen dormant, and the challenge is clearly open for BR to see how well it can do itself in order to drive away permanently the spectre of what the rail unions at any rate (not so dogmatic) see as the "Balkanization" of British Rail.

Today's inauguration is the second phase of a three-part programme to upgrade Gatwick's rail connection, of which the final part will perhaps not be seen for a further two years.

The first was the opening by the then BR chairman Sir Peter Parker of the new Gatwick airport station, built at a cost of £11m, in 1981. This keys in the rail to the air terminal at the Gatwick end so conveniently and closely that it is only 100 metres from the airport Customs to the London train.

The second - to be attended by Sir Peter's successor Mr Bob Reid today - is the new link railway between Gatwick and Victoria; and the third is a new terminal at Victoria itself.

For the present there is no more than a tantalizing glimpse of that for the air traveller in the form of a huge concrete raft just above ceiling height over the Victoria platforms from which the Gatwick trains arrive and depart.

This raft is also the bottom floor of the new Victoria Plaza commercial development carried out at a cost of around £40m by property developers Greycoat Estates.

For the present it is no more than a shell, but the scheme is to fit it out over the next two years, at a cost of £5m-£10m, as a high quality airport concourse, linked by lifts and escalators to the station below and with direct road access for passengers arriving by car and coach.

British Rail is currently searching for a private sector partner to develop and operate the new terminal, which it expects to do in time for completion by about 1986.

When that happens, the Gatwick experience will be further extended in a happy conjunction of public and private enterprise

Michael Bailey
Transport Editor

Victoria

Battersea Park

Clapham Jct.

Wandsworth Common

Batham

Streatham Common

Norbury

Thornton Heath

Selhurst

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Merstham

Redhill

Horley

Gatwick

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GATWICK EXPRESS

Five storeys high, the 'airspace' rooftop that cost £45m



The Victoria Plaza roof which is almost ready to be unveiled.

Going through Victoria's roof

Once it played host to kings and the occasional queen travelling to Bognor or Brighton to take the sea air. But today, rising from its Victorian rafters, Victoria station is playing host to a new breed of aristocrats—the property developers.

Depending on your point of view Victoria station's majestic but outdated canopy is being transformed into what some people are describing as London's most exciting office building. Or, in fact, two office buildings covering more than 300,000 sq ft of commercial space on five storeys above the station.

While the concept of developing "air space" above a station may be thought of by the average Londoner as a new concept imported from north America, British Rail has been developing the phenomenon for the past decade. The transport giant realized a long time ago that if it wanted new station facilities it had better find someone else to pay for them—preferably in the private sector. Perhaps the first of these joint development schemes was Birmingham's New Street station where the private sector developed the Bull Ring shopping

centre and accompanying offices.

In London examples abound like Euston and Blackfriars. And of course the long-awaited Liverpool Street redevelopment where BR will receive a new station in exchange for letting property developers erect around 1m sq ft of office space.

As part of the improved Victoria-Gatwick rail-air link, two major office buildings are in the process of being constructed, although the first, Victoria Plaza, is almost ready to be unveiled.

It is an ambitious project undertaken by Greycoat London Estates—a joint development company made up of Greycoat City Offices and Sir Robert McAlpine. With 200,000 sq ft of net lettable office space the scheme features no fewer than three arias and will be built at a cost of £45m. Funding is being provided by Norwich Union.

The scheme has caused quite a stir in the capital's property market. Victoria is not regarded as one of London's prime office locations. It is too far from Mayfair and St James's to be thought of as West End and is even off-pitch from the so-called "oil-alley" of Victoria Street.

But naturally one of the development partners Mr Geoffrey Wilson of Greycoat City Offices is extremely confident that the building will be let. Although completed, official marketing of Victoria Plaza does not begin until next month but Mr Wilson reports that there has been considerable interest among potential tenants.

He describes the building as an office block of the 1990s employing many forms of advanced technology to make it as energy efficient as possible. Both Mr Wilson and the joint letting agents Jones Lang Wootton and Teacher Marks are coy about the asking rent but it is understood they are seeking rents of more than £20 a sq ft.

In exchange for development rights Greycoat London Estates is building the shell of the new £17m rail-air terminal which BR realized some time ago that it could not afford to fund itself. However, BR will still have to pay for the fitting-out of the terminal which is expected to allow air passengers to check their baggage in at Victoria and then not see it again until they

get off the plane at their final destination.

Further up the street—between Eccleston and Elizabeth Bridges—outline planning permission has been granted for a further office building. Like its neighbour, Victoria Plaza, this will be on five floors and developed by the same group.

Consisting of around 330,000 sq ft of offices and 12,000 sq ft of shopping space this phase is made up of two interlinked buildings. Proposals include a covered walkway through the site, a covered bus station, improvements to the station concourse and an archive library for Westminster Council. Work on the development could start by the end of the year and take up to three years, although funding has not yet been finalized.

While architects and purists may mourn the passing of the station's impressive Victorian arches, travellers probably will not. Any development above a station has many advantages to the office user, not least its convenience for commuting staff who will simply be able to jump out of their train and into a lift.

Baron Phillips

How the ugly duckling changed its feathers



Easy access for pushing luggage and clear signs at Gatwick for the train to Victoria.

chosen to ease the whole problem of air traffic through the south-east of England for the future—be it a fifth terminal at Heathrow on the site of the present sludge works at the western end of that airport, the expansion of Stansted to take a further 15 million passengers a year, or a combination of both options.

The north terminal at Gatwick was sanctioned by a planning consent in November, 1982, after a lengthy public inquiry, and at the time of writing the majority of works to protect the environment, including the raising of earth mounds up to 13 metres high, had been completed. The River Mole had been diverted, and the foundations were going in. Out of the total cost of £200m, some £50m worth of work had been committed, and by the end of this year it is expected that £20m of this will have been spent.

But the airports authority identified this build-up years ago, as a result of which a new north terminal is under construction with a completion date of summer 1987, at which time it will add a further 9m capacity to give Gatwick the ability to handle 25 million passengers a year.

At that stage the potential for further expansion will be virtually exhausted, and attention will focus on whatever solution the Government has

Landscaping around the terminal has been designed to continue the "airport in the country" theme of which the airports authority is proud, and the aircraft stands are being positioned so that the airlines using them will make the least possible noise impact on local communities. The building will have three main levels. On the upper level, the departures hall will have 84 check-in desks, and an automated system to carry passengers' luggage to their flights.

New roads will link the north terminal to the M25 and A23, and it will be joined to the main line railway station by a driverless "people mover" of a similar type to that which runs to the circular satellite, opened in April, 1983—and which, in its first 12 months of operation, was used by 4 million passengers.

While the north terminal will take the pressure from the

passenger-handling sector of Gatwick, the airport's real limiting factor—its single runway—will remain. The BAA has given an undertaking that it will not build a second runway in the foreseeable future, and the land which was originally earmarked for this purpose has, in recent years, been built over for the cargo terminal.

Using the most up-to-date technical aids (a new control tower is due to enter use in early June), and with a highly professional air traffic control operation, the existing runway could handle up to 160,000 movements a year. But even with the present 135,000 movements, there are periods of congestion when airlines queue to take-off or land, and acute problems are presented to those whose task it is to make Gatwick work smoothly when the runway has to be serviced, or an aircraft blocks it.

It is to ameliorate the impact of these last two cases that work on the expansion of the existing parallel taxiway into a runway which can be used in emergencies has recently started.

The taxiway is to be extended to 2,500 metres in length and doubled in width to 45 metres, making it good enough for landings by all types of airliners, and for most take-offs by European flights—heavy, long-distance aircraft will have to take-off light and call for additional fuel elsewhere on their route. The runway will be lit, but not instrumented, and the airports authority is at pains to point out that it will not be a second runway by stealth. It is, in any case, too close, at only 100 metres, to the main runway for the two to be used at the same time.

Of the 69 aircraft stands at Gatwick today, 49 of them can be used by wide-bodied aircraft, such as the DC-10s of British Caledonian, the Lockheed Tri-Stars of Delta, and the Boeing 747s of the Chinese national airline CAAC. On peak days, the airport handles more than 600 flights in and out, and its existing single terminal copes with up to 3,500 passengers an hour in each direction, about 40 per cent of whom arrive at and leave the airport by rail. For those coming by road, there are 13,000 long and short-term parking spaces within the airport boundary.

Arthur Reed

Getting a warm welcome at Gatwick

The work on upgrading the existing facilities at Gatwick goes on constantly. Extensive work on the main terminal has recently been completed, and glass walls are now being installed in the central pier, built for wide-bodied airliners, to lighten the gloomy aspect which greets passengers as they are carried towards their flights on moving walkways. Four aircraft stands are being added.

The new satellite has improved the lot of the passenger considerably, with its modern design, areas of glass, the bright decor. After stepping from the driverless train, travellers are led to their flights by signs in coloured neon, the

warmer colours being used on the cold north side, and colder colours on the warmer south. Shops, restaurants, and duty free are in the centre of the building, and are surrounded by a pavement designed to give a street atmosphere, with public telephones, seats and lamp standards.

The airport authority has also worked on modernising the south pier, the oldest at Gatwick, having been built in the 1960s. It has installed air ladders, through which passengers can walk directly on to the aircraft, at all eight stands so that they can now serve airlines of the modern generation.

Victoria
come,
on time

CATCH THE

Despite stress, apoplexy, confusion and frustration, Robin Young finds other ways to ease the journey

Victoria here I come, and on time, too

There are statistics to show that the incidence of stress symptoms, apoplexy and heart failure is higher at airports than anywhere else on earth, even including railway stations. But for the millions who travel by rail, the journey is not a nightmare. No matter how crowded the destination, we nowadays realize that getting there is likely to be a hard work, taxing the physique, paying the temper and ultimately destroying human dignity.

The one cardinal rule for surviving the *mêlée* is the confusion, the frustrating queues, the uncertainty of what to do or where to go next is, of course, always to have plenty of time in hand. Travel at the earliest opportunity, not the latest. Take the train two (or three) ahead of the one you would have first thought of, and you will stay comfortably ahead of the crowd stampeding to get where you have just been.

The general tendency is to leave things till late on the assumption that railway stations and airports are unpleasant places to be. But it is really being late, rushed and panicky that contributes most to making them so. Have time to look around you, and to study how they work, and transport facilities become much more sympathetic.

Victoria itself has surely the smartest address of all the London rail termini. Comfortably ensconced between Belgrave, Piccadilly and Westminster, it certainly cannot be accused of having dragged the area down. From the point of view of surrounding amenities and attractions it is the best served of all London stations.

Intending travellers who had planned their trips well in advance could, for example, conveniently eat in some of the best restaurants in London before quitting the capital. Ebury Street offers, within a short stroll of the station, Ken Lo's cool and tasteful Memories of China for those inclined to

spice their appetite for travel with something deliciously oriental. Mijanou, for those who like something classy in the French style, and Dulcinea a resolutely appointed and under-appreciated Spanish restaurant with one of the most extraordinary wine lists in London. Another option is Belgrave's neighbourhood cafe. Eatons in Elizabeth Street, where a meal of deep-fried mushrooms, calves liver and homemade cheese cake will fortify travellers admirably for the trials ahead. Or for a foretaste of Italy try Gran Paradiso down Wilton Road.

Bear in mind that for those with time to spare St James's Park, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Cathedral and Abbey, and the Tate Gallery (with another excellent restaurant for lunch) are all within walking distance, and that those travelling through Victoria can attend a theatre within yards of their train. Book far enough ahead and it could be Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Starlight Express* at the Apollo Victoria. Otherwise it would have to be the new show at the Victoria Palace.

A welcome bed for new arrivals

Setting out well fed is essential to the art of travelling comfortably, and if it means breakfast that can be had at small restaurants outside the station, such as Grandma Lee's, or more substantially, in the imposing Grosvenor Hotel which has direct access to the station and which can also offer late night arrivals a welcoming bed and bath at £39 a single or £23 each in a double, so much the better.

None of the forgoing recommendations is intended to scorn the efforts of Travellers' Fare, but necessarily the on-station catering facilities do aim particularly at providing for



● Above, members of the Transport Users Consultative Committee relax on a timed test run of the new train from Victoria, and left how it was... a vintage steam locomotive moves past work for the new terminal and flyover in September 1957. This picture was taken from the old Gatwick racecourse station.



those in a hurry, which the well-advised traveller is not. Still, for those with no time to look elsewhere there are 10 bars and buffets about the station, the first opening at 6.30 am and the last closing at 11 pm. Most useful of all, perhaps, is the Casey Jones fast hamburger bar which, experimentally at least, is opening during the summer from 5 am until two the following morning.

From six in the morning until nine at night Gatwick has its own ticket office, beside platforms 15 to 19. At other times, when there are unlikely to be queues, tickets can be bought from the main windows. A rarity at inner-city railway stations these days, the Gatwick ticket office provides eight seats in a waiting room, with an indicator announcing the next departure.

The left luggage office is close at hand: there are lockers in the middle of the station for those travelling when it is closed. Before leaving Victoria the daytime traveller can get a shoe-shine (70p); wash and brush-up and shave (30p); confirm or revise flight arrangements with British Airways or British Caledonian; buy fresh fruit or flowers; get passport photos from a machine; change money (but banks give better rates than the bureaux de change); and buy books, newspapers or magazines from W. H. Smith.

On arrival at Gatwick, everything is clearly posted for those who have time to look around. It is those who are racing against time who, sadly, are almost predestined to lose their way.

Check baggage in and be rid of it as soon as you can. Decide now at what time you will yourself go through the controls which take you airside. If you have nothing else to do, or if seat allocation is to be at the departure gate or on a first-come-first-served basis, it is as well to go through straight away.

But if you want to eat at Gatwick, there is more choice airside. Catering is concentrated on the third floor of the terminal building, one floor above the main concourse. The Panorama Grill restaurant opens for breakfast at 6.30am and runs through lunch, afternoon tea and dinner until 10pm. The Gatwick Pantry also has waitress service, but serves lighter meals - freshly toasted sandwiches, home-made soup, pasta dishes, and their own

freshly baked baguettes. In summer it is open from six in the morning till eight at night.

One of the self-service buffets, the London Pride, is open 24 hours a day, with fare changing to suit the time. Another, the Speedwell, supplements it from 7am to 7pm in summer, serving the same selection.

Do not expect, however, to be able to use these facilities without queuing. You may be lucky, but at peak times all are fully stretched. Hence the wisdom of eating before leaving London if possible.

Opportunities for refreshment are not exhausted once you go airside. There is a 24-hour buffet in the department lounge, but its selection is more limited than those outside.

Drinkers, though, have some advantage being airside, where the bar is always open. Lan-

dside, ordinary pub licensing hours have to be observed.

You should, in any case, be airside soon enough to consider carefully whether you want to buy duty-free goods.

The target saving in the duty free shops liquor and tobacco is about 40 per cent of the retail price in Britain. Know your price comparisons, resist impulse purchases, but look around for anything a bit special which might be a treat. Single malt whiskies are particularly good value at present, but there is no reason to be toting table wine to France or sherry back to Spain.

These purchases settled, reclaim your seat in the departure lounge, within view of the announcement board, and calmly study the frenetic behaviour and harrowed expressions of those who have organized themselves less thoroughly than you. Do not, at this late stage, succumb to the temptation to rush to a telephone to ask a neighbour to check that you turned the gas off... or should you?

Sandwiches by the thousand, plus a porter

Though it is a complicated accretion of buildings of different date, and even now partially a building site while development continues, Victoria Station has the habit of absorbing change with equanimity.

It has a worse reputation than it deserves. When opening the smart new London Tourist Board information centre at the station entrance, the then minister of tourism talked disparagingly of Victoria's "generally off-putting, shabby, dirty appearance". He said the place could do with a face-lift.

Life has been one long face-lift for Victoria, and the struggle to keep its aspect moderately pleasing is an unremitting one. In 1978 an American offered to buy it for conversion into an antique market. It was regarded as a great joke at the time by those who thought that any such conversion would be superfluous, and said that most of the exhibits needed were on site already.

Railway stations do not have a good reputation, and Victoria's is little better than most. Yet 155,000 people, coming and going, plough through it every day with little complaint. Most, of course, come and go as quickly as possible and, not surprisingly, nothing is done to encourage travellers to stay the night.

Even so, many of the complaints of former years have now been acted upon. The shortage of trolleys, which was blamed on thefts, seems to have been alleviated. British Rail confess that it is not because people have stopped stealing them. The lockers, long closed for fear of terrorist bombs, are now available, and seem adequately supervised. At most times of the day arrivals from Gatwick can even find railmen willing to serve as porters.

British Rail's workforce at Victoria, including those who work for Sealink, Travellers' Fare and the traffic police, is 1,100. The numbers employed at the station by ancillary services and shops are little more than a hundred. At night, when the Gatwick service is the only one to continue right through, the numbers about are few indeed.

Yet I found that if Victoria is rather eerily quiet and empty at dead of night, it is no longer depressing or frightening. On my nocturnal foray, railmen were patiently cleaning. There was a convivial good-night from an alert ticket collector. Inquiries were being courteously dealt with by the first-class ticket window.

There were both taxis and night buses standing outside ready to whisk me away, though of course the three Underground lines were now all closed.

Gatwick, by contrast, can be as busy at 2am as it is at 3pm. Busy in winter, the traffic doubles in summer and the numbers can only be accommodated by stretching the hours the airport is at work. Planes that may be making one trip out and back in winter are likely to be making three in summer. First departures are earlier, last arrivals later.

There are more than 70 concerns at work within Gatwick Airport. The total workforce is estimated to be 13,500. Even at the unearliest of hours there are hundreds of people about the place.

The caterers, for example, will have 30 or 40 at work as a minimum, some staffing the 24-hour buffets, and others hard at it in the production kitchens preparing for the morning rush. They make and fill no fewer than 25,000 sandwiches a week, and the aim is to have everything sold within about seven hours of its being made.

The duty free shops employ up to 350 staff in peak season. They stay open through the night because it is simpler to keep staff on duty than to transport them away as late as the shop could close and back as early as they would need to open.

The cleaners, too, are at work round the clock. 200 of them working in three eight hour shifts. It is the night shift, of course, who provide the deep clean because, simply, it is difficult pushing brooms and sweepers about the place when it is full of thousands of people.

RY

CATCH THE TRAIN AND YOU'VE CAUGHT THE PLANE. THE NEW GATWICK EXPRESS TAKES OFF TODAY.

Next time you're in a hurry to get to Gatwick, blow a raspberry to the jams. From today the Gatwick Express, our new airport supertrain, will scorch non-stop from Victoria to the heart of the airport in just 30 minutes.

No need to bother with timetables. One leaves every 15 minutes, from early morning until late at night. (There's also an hourly service with standard trains right through the night.) Every train is specially built for fliers, with

air conditioning and bags of extra baggage space.

Victoria to the airport concourse in 30 minutes. Try beating that in your car and the police could stop you leaving the country. Phone 01-200 0200 for details.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Wages the only cloud on the inflation horizon

At this stage in any economic recovery, the British would normally be jostling each other into an inflationary scramble. This past week, the financial markets have shown how ready they are to distrust Mr Nigel Lawson's confident forecasts that inflation will go on slowly declining, and to believe instead in the lessons of 15 years' bitter experience.

Of course, no one really supposes that a government whose one claim to economic success is the conquest of inflation simply going to throw it away. But the argument being fought out in public in the United States neatly illustrates the issue in Britain too. Governments have to set their monetary targets according to guesses about the proportion of future expansion that will translate into growth, and the proportion that will waste itself in inflation. As we now plainly know, the Federal Reserve Board and the Reagan Administration disagree about this. This British Government too has to guess at the strength of inflationary pressures in setting its controls, and the markets are congenitally suspicious of optimism. Just the same, an inspection tour of the tell-tale indicators still reveals only one source of real domestic concern.

Pouring oil on troubled waters

Apart from the vagaries of American government, which are giving sterling (along with other European currencies) a hard time, the international signals are set pretty fair. The oil markets are steady, even though world output is rising at an annual rate of nearly 4 per cent — a remarkable change from the last two economic recoveries. (Back in Britain, Mr Arthur Scargill is learning that economic recovery no longer confers infinite power on those engaged in energy production.) Commodity prices are rising, but only quite modestly by past experience — possibly because the changed pattern of production in developed countries, now more dependent on service industries, has dampened demand for industrial raw materials.

But history provides ample evidence of Britain's ability to make its own foul inflationary weather. So what are the signs at home? That favourite piece of forecasters' seaweed, the housing market, is still not too discouraging. House prices are actually rising more slowly than they did last year.

The borrowing bulge, it seems, is still squeezing its way out of the tax-advantaged housing market into finance for all kinds of consumer purchases. From the very beginning of this recovery, the borrowing boom spent itself heavily on imports; but that can hardly be taken as a measure of "overheating". To suggest that demand should be restrained to a rate that can be met by increasing British production implies that British consumers buy foreign only when home-produced goods are out of stock. This is what happens in Japan — but not, patently, in Britain.

The buying spree enjoyed by those consumers still in work, fed by rising real incomes these past three years, has not pushed up prices precisely because domestic manufacturers have been constrained by foreign competition. It may be

that a falling exchange rate will enable British firms to raise their prices again; but since the pound is not falling against any of its main competitors in Europe, the chances are comfortably slim.

The real danger area, as always, is the labour market. To interpret its goings-on, it is important to look back at the course of the recovery so far. It has been strongly argued that inflation has lain dormant because the recovery has been uniquely slow — or "steady and sustainable", as the Government likes to put it. Part of this, however, was statistical illusion: production figures tend to be revised upwards as time goes on, sometimes by as much as 5 per cent. Since growth calculations for the most recent period depend on the difference between a base figure which may have been revised upwards several times, and the first low estimate for the latest three months or so, they invariably underestimate recoveries and over-estimate recessions — until enough time has passed for all the figures to have been revised upwards by the statisticians.

So recent work by the Treasury suggests the recovery has not been uniquely gradual; but even statistical hindsight cannot much reduce the depth of the slump that began in 1979. It now appears that the economy has grown at its normal rather sluggish pace since 1981, but from a point uniquely far below the trend.

From this follow two quite different views about the labour market. The optimistic prognosis is that Britain has still a long way to go; indeed, that productivity improvements over the past three years have actually increased the headroom, before recovery begins to bump into the kind of obstructions and shortages that trigger a cost explosion.

Wages follow profits — not the dole queue

The pessimistic view is that wage inflation was only reduced by the severity of the recession. The slump has left British industry even less able than usual to reexpand production; and so serious skill shortages are emerging dangerously early. On this prognosis, wage inflation is likely to pick up extremely fast.

But neither offers a very convincing explanation of wage behaviour these past three years. Settlements have, in fact, reflected company profitability rather more closely than employment trends. Wage inflation ceased to slow down as soon as profits improved; even though unemployment was still rising, and it has not changed much, since, even though employment has begun to rise.

But this is only moderately encouraging news. While it suggests wages will not explode with further modest improvement in employment trends, it means the risk is ever-present. The Government's whole tax strategy is directed towards an improvement in business profitability. So far, private industry has managed to earn about half of the 6 per cent annual increase in settlements out of higher productivity; but will it resist the temptation to finance the next round out of profits instead?

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Panel to rule on Francis shares

By Our City Staff

Robert Fleming, the merchant bank adviser to Mr David Abell's Suter, said yesterday that the two Swiss companies which sold more than one million shares in Francis Industries "were not known to us".

The Takeover Panel is investigating whether there are any links between the Swiss companies and Suter which would constitute a "concert party".

Mr Ian Ramsay of Fleming said: "The panel asked us for our assurance that we had no knowledge of these people. We gave it. The panel is still to talk to Suter's brokers, Scrimgeour, Kemp-Gee, but a ruling is likely today."

If the panel found there was a

concert party Suter could be forced to raise its £14.4m bid because the Swiss companies are believed to have bought at above-the-bid price. The shares bought on April 18 to increase the Suter stake in Francis to 29.9 per cent and later the same day to nearly 35 per cent are thought to have come from the Swiss companies. But Mr Ramsay pointed out that Leonard Brothers, the merchant bank to Francis, was also buying and may have bought some of the Swiss shares itself.

Suter will write to Francis shareholders before Wednesday's closing date for the bid which has been raised once but which Suter has now declared final. The letter will tell

shareholders that they "are staying with a company going backwards in real terms". Francis has made an impressive £2.2m profit forecast, but Suter says that Francis would have to make more than £3m to beat the previous record in 1979 in real terms.

Suter maintains that it is offering Francis shareholders the chance to make a "significant increase in capital". But the share price has remained at around 128p, well above the 125p offer value. However, Francis' shares go ex-dividend today which could cause some weakness in the price.

Under the takeover rules for Francis, Suter can now only extend its offer by another week from next Friday.

AMERICAN NOTEBOOK

Reagan gets the money message

The collapse of the bond markets has activated serious fears in the White House that the Federal Reserve's inability to prevent the recent sharp rise in interest rates will gravely weaken the President's re-election chances.

Since the middle of January, bond futures have fallen from 71 to 61 and the Treasury's long bond has fallen from 102 to 89.

Fears on Friday of financial difficulties at Continental Illinois Bank (Number eight in the US) brought a plunge in bond futures and a stock market sell-off.

Some analysts are forecasting a 100 point drop in the Dow Jones industrial average, to bring stock prices in line with the drop in bonds.

Advice to the President from a prominent New York republican with direct access to the Administration's whole future is threatened by the failure of the Federal Reserve to provide sufficient funds to keep the strong growth of credit demand.

Recent rises in the prime rate to 12½ per cent and in the discount rate to 9 per cent, followed by a renewed plunge in bonds during the last two weeks, have evidently convinced the Administration that there must be a major change in Fed policy.

Market interest rates are now close to where they were in mid-1982 when the Fed instituted the explosive growth of money that led to the great bond and stock rally of 1982-83, when bond futures rose 36 per cent and stocks rose 70 per cent.

The long bond yield has risen 171 basis points since early January; 90-day T-Bills have risen 105 basis points and 90-day certificates of deposit 120 basis points.

While the current economic news suggests the economy will at worst grow more slowly in the second quarter, the Administration is hypersensitive to the level of interest rates.

The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr Donald Regan, expressed these fears in his

address to the National Conference of State Legislators on Friday when he said: "Our growth is moderating and our inflation remains low. There is no sign of a widespread surge in inflationary pressures. We have continually asked the Federal Reserve to supply enough money to accommodate non-inflationary growth. We hope they will do so."

The argument that has been put to the president is that the appropriate rate of money growth is not unchanging but varies with the economic conditions.

In today's conditions, the President has been told, there is still a high level of unemployment and a high ratio of unused productive capacity.

In such circumstances it is desirable that the rate of money growth should be kept up, otherwise the rate of growth of the economy will be unnecessarily reduced and interest rates unnecessarily elevated.

Thus, Mr Regan's public criticisms of the Federal Re-

serve reflect a conviction in the Administration that the President's hopes for a big majority in the elections will be threatened unless the Fed is obliged to increase the rate of money growth.

Federal Reserve officials have been taking the opposite course. According to Mr Frank Morris of the Boston Fed, the Federal Open Market Committee decided in March to tighten policy "and to reduce the growth of banks' reserves. This took from Mr Morris indicated the Fed is on a course exactly opposite to what the Administration wants."

The next stage may be a meeting between the President and Paul Volcker, chairman of the Fed, as the Administration tries to arrest and reverse the trend to higher interest rates.

Short of some such intervention, the markets indicate another rise in the prime rate to 13 or even 13½ per cent in the very near future.

Maxwell Newton

EEC ministers unite on need for debt accord at summit

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The agenda for the London economic summit next month has been largely determined by a series of international meetings over the weekend. At Rambouillet, outside Paris, Mr Nigel Lawson and other EEC finance ministers agreed that the problems of international debt should be on the summit agenda, during informal talks devoted to establishing an agreed European position ahead of the summit. Meanwhile, a series of major trade initiatives emerged from meetings of EEC, Japanese, American and developing country representatives in Washington.

M Jacques Delors, the French Finance Minister who played host to the EEC ministers, said the importance of placing debt on the summit agenda was agreed unanimously. He described the effect of higher American interest rates as "truly dramatic", and said that France had tabled proposals, including strengthening the role of the international financial institutions, for dealing with the debt issue to be discussed at a meeting of the Group of 10 industrial governments on Wednesday.

However, it does not appear that the EEC finance ministers were able to reach agreement on the type of measures that should be introduced.

A variety of schemes for limiting the rate of interest to be paid by developing countries emerged from last week's meeting of central bankers in New York, but a majority of summit governments appears to be opposed to the idea of interest-rate subsidies, while the commercial banks are opposed to straightforward capitalization of interest payments.

From the trade talks in Washington it became clear that EEC countries are reluctant to endorse the joint American-Japanese call for a new round of trade talks, preferring to see more preparatory talks on specific issues. Further harmonizing of American-Japanese relations came with the announcement of outline proposals by the Japanese Government for liberalization of financial markets, which will be revealed in detail during bilateral trade talks on May 21.

This will follow a full meeting of ministers of all 24 industrial governments which are members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, due in Paris next weekend, which is likely to settle all outstanding trade issues ahead of the summit.

The Japanese financial package is expected to end the deadlock in negotiations over funds for the International Development Agency, the soft-loan arm of the World Bank, which the American Administration has been blocking in an attempt to force Japan to take further action to open up its financial markets.

In Washington, the United States also came under fire from developing nations, arguing that it was impossible to repay their debts while the United States restricted their exports.

The EEC finance ministers reserved some time for discussion of budgetary issues, launching further studies to be prepared for their formal meetings on June 4, and the development of the European Monetary System. The British Government, however, made it clear it had no plans to apply for full membership at the moment.

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Maxwell may bid for Bishopsgate

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation is likely to make a disguised rights issue by bidding for an investment trust.

BPCC is believed to be the potential suitor which approached the Bishopsgate Trust last week but yesterday it was still unclear whether other bidders had emerged.

Mr Maxwell, unexpectedly in London yesterday, has also delayed until today publication of BPCC's annual report, which is expected to be optimistic.

The report and accounts will clarify how much cash BPCC needs to maintain its recovery. More than three-quarters of shares are in the hands of Mr Maxwell's private company, Pergamon Press.

An investment trust could be acquired and liquidated to release cash. Shares in Bishopsgate, managed by Hambros Bank, were trading last week at 187p, just a few pence below net asset value.

But results for the year to



Maxwell: surprise visit to London

March, expected any day, is expected to show a big increase in net assets. Last year's report showed a net asset value of £41.6m and the trust is almost certainly now worth more than £50m.

The Provincial holds almost a quarter of the shares; almost half are in the hands of the four biggest shareholders — the Pru, Standard Life, The Equitable Life, and Investment Trust Units.

Tax interest concession

By Ian Griffiths

The Government is set to introduce amendments to the Finance Bill to relax the provisions for interest charges on capital gains tax arising from assessments on the gains of discretionary trusts set up overseas but for the benefit of residents of Britain.

Clauses dealing with non-resident trusts were reintroduced in the 1984 Finance Bill in an attempt to iron out an anomaly created by the decision

in *Lordale v Lewis*. That gave the Inland Revenue the ability to charge tax on the gains made by the overseas trusts, even if the physical cash from the gains had not been received.

The Finance Bill will ensure that tax does not fall due until the gains are received. However, under the provision to be amended, interest which had accrued before March 29 on tax assessed under the *Lordale v Lewis* ruling remains payable.

None of the former directors of Esal, a small trader in physical and future commodities, is presently in the country. The former chairman, Mr Rajendra Sehla, has pledged further assets to act as collateral. These are being independently valued but he says they are worth \$18m.

Suggestions by trade creditors that these should be taken and liquidated, giving each creditor between 30 and 40 cents in the dollar, were rejected by the banks.

Esal rescue deal nears deadline

By Philip Robinson

Esal (Commodities) and its associated companies will go into receivership a week today unless creditors owed \$6.36m (£4.6m) sign a \$45m rescue package by 5 pm tomorrow.

At a creditors' meeting held in the Barbican Centre in London last week, trade creditors and seven London branches of international banks failed to agree that the rescue of Esal, which has debts of \$212m, was worthwhile.

The creditors feel that the bankers should pay out some cash as goodwill. The banks refused point blank to pay out any money immediately, and argued that the \$5m worth of standby credit and \$40m worth of confirming facilities are sufficient signs of goodwill.

The package, which has taken four months to produce under leadership of the Punjab National Bank, needs approval from creditors owed a total of \$190m. So far it has the signatures of those owed \$184m. By far the largest of these are the banks themselves which are owed \$166m.

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US attacked over dollar

The French Finance Minister, M Jacques Delors, has attacked the US for refusing to join European central banks and the Bank of Japan in collective intervention last week to restrain the surging dollar.

Intervention had averted a "snowball effect", said M Delors, speaking after the informal weekend meeting of EEC finance ministers and central bank governors at Rambouillet, near Paris.

M Delors said the US had forgotten that it signed a common statement last year acknowledging that exchange rate intervention could be useful.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1078.7 down 55.3
FT Index: 871.0 down 44.4
FT 1000: 79.75 down 1.27
FT All Share: 511.85 down 22.48
Bargains: 23,239
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 115.03 down 3.31
1157.14 down 8.17
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index
10,833.87 down 356.3

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
\$1.3650 down 245
Index 80.0 down 0.5
DM 3.84 up 0.0025
¥11.79 up 0.02
Yen 319 down 1.0
Dollar
Index 131.7 up 2.1
DM 2.7725 up 0.0515

BOARD MEETINGS

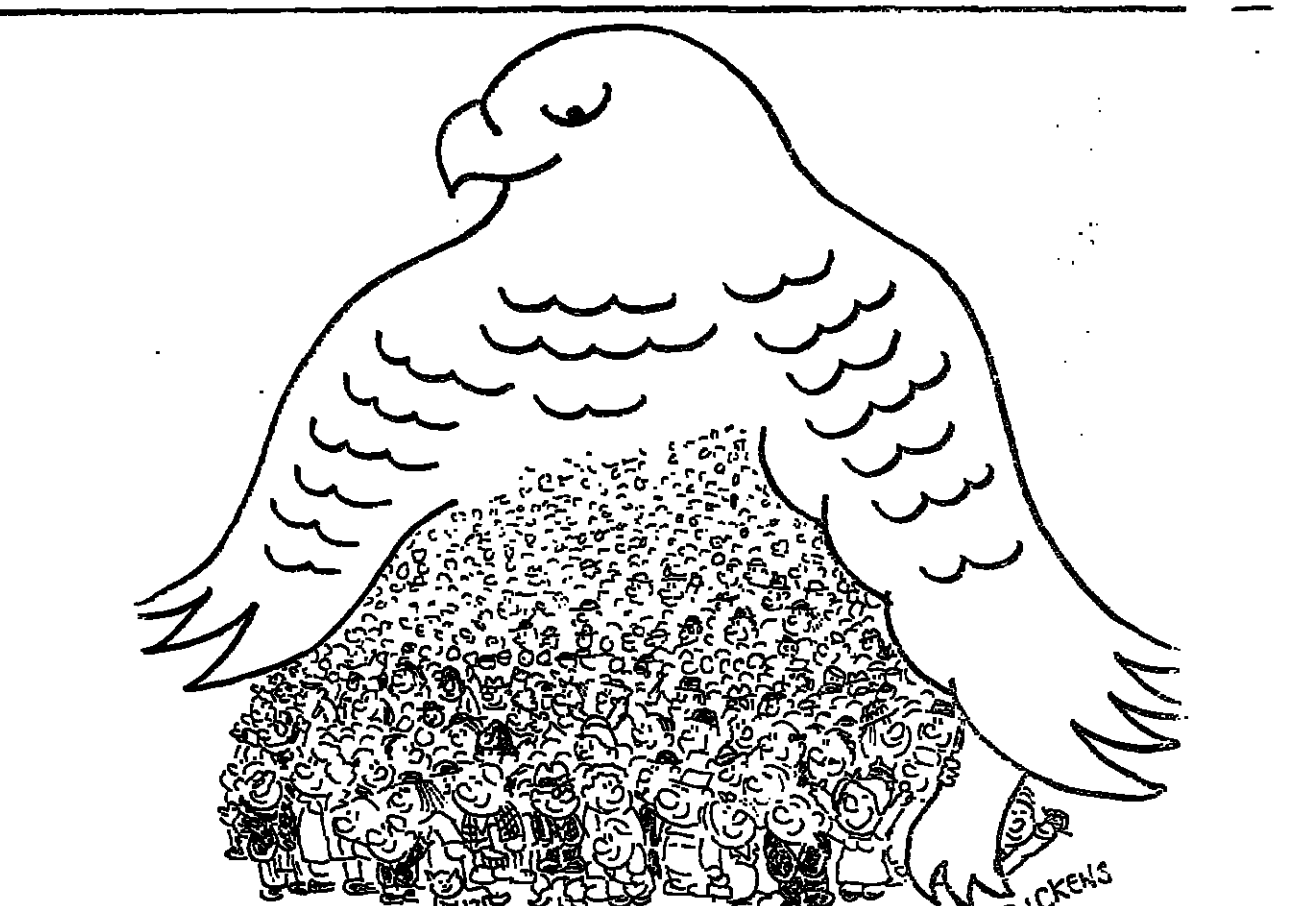
TODAY - Interims: Allied London Properties, Bagderidge Brick, Matthew Brown, Crampthorn, Crystallite Holdings, Unilever (first quarter), Whessoe, Finals: Advance Services, Outch Investment Trust, Redicut International, Stewart Enterprise Investment Co, Warnford Investments.

TOMORROW - Interims: Commercial Union Assurance (first quarter), Grand Metropolitan, Finals: Aron Hinton & Sons, Anglo American Coal Corp, London & Linnor Investment Trust, Walter Runciman, Sears Holdings, Seccombe Marshall & Campion.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: General Stockholders Investment Trust, Hamilton Oil, Majestic Investments, NSS Newsagents, Philips Lamps (quarterly), Stockholders Investment Trust, United Scientific Holdings, Valm Polten International, Finals: Chamberlain & Hill, City of Oxford Investment Trust, Clarke Nickolls & Coombs, Dupor Hartwells Group, Henderson Group, Usher-Walker, Witan Investment Co.

THURSDAY - Interims: Albion General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation (quarterly), Guinness Peat, Higsons Brewery, Reed Stanhouse, RHP Group, Royal Dutch Petroleum (first quarter), Shell Transport and Trading (first quarter), Finals: Bank of Ireland, Feacex Agriculture, Industries, GE Health, Land Securities, London Atlantic Investment Trust, Rolfe & Nolan Computer Services, Seimcourt.

FRIDAY - Interims: Concentric, J Gleeson Group, Metamatic Bank, Stainless Metalcraft, Finn Eccottes Clothes, Frank G Gals Gers Gross, George Spencer.



Come under our wing
Like the millions who do every year

More and more policy and pension plan holders come under Eagle Star's wing each year and 1983 was no exception.

Despite intense competition total premium income last year reached a record £888 million and the surplus before tax showed an increase of 32.8 per cent at £90.3 million.

In all Eagle Star paid out over £640 million to families and businesses in the UK and around the world, on claims large and small, including our share of major catastrophes.

The message to all our policy and pension plan holders is plain: now, more than ever, you're better off under the wing of Eagle Star.

In his Annual Statement the Chairman, Sir Denis Mountain, Bt, said:

“1983 was a memorable year for Eagle Star... which culminated in the company becoming a member of B.A.T. Industries in January 1984. During this period the Board of Eagle Star

ORDINARY SHARES

Big moves afoot in transport

Alan Kelsey and Antony Nash

The transport sector of Britain's stock market (excluding the shipping companies) is, at present, capitalized at only £350m.

Although the business activities encompassed range from ports management to freight forwarding, the sector is dominated by British road haulage. This is an industry which is highly fragmented, has had a difficult history and the profitability of which has been highly variable.

What is of attraction in the transport sector is the high quality of management of the quoted companies within it, such as Transport Development Group, United Parcels and Associated British Ports - the three largest - and the unique position of the sector on the borderline between state and private ownership. The reasons for a strong state presence are numerous, but prominent among them is the strong role that central regulation has to play in transport activities.

Within the last two years two important publicly owned transport companies have been privatized. The first was the imaginative management/employee buy-out of the National Freight Consortium. The NFC, which has thrived since then, is the largest road transport concern in Britain and includes such household names as BRS and Pickfords.

It is not certain whether or not the NFC will, in the future, come to the stock market but, even if it does not, the greater freedom which the management now enjoys has meant that the NFC has achieved reflects not only the higher level of activity currently enjoyed but also the success of the group's more commercial approach to its operations.

In February last year, Associated British Ports came to the market when the Government sold half of the company. This privatization has been very successful as well, not only because of the improved profits recorded since then and the greater management freedom enjoyed, but also because of the high degree of employee participation in the ownership of the company (as with the NFC).

British Airways is expected to come to the market in the spring of next year. This company alone is likely to more than treble the size of the transport sector and to concentrate investment attention more strongly upon it.

In line behind British Airways for possible future market entry from the public sector are the British Airports Authority and the National Bus Company and, from the private sector, British Caledonian and British Midland Airways.

Whether all these companies come to the stock market in the event cannot be predicted accurately but the potential addition in size and content is substantial and of international interest. No important concern is quoted anywhere in the world, while BA will be the world's largest quoted international airline.

With the exception of the National Bus Company, all the likely newcomers are air transport-related companies and British investors will need to learn about a completely new world. Air transport is a highly regulated industry.

The British airlines industry awaits the outcome of two

inquiries which, together with the scheduled privatization of British Airways, will profoundly affect the future structure of the industry. Until the outcomes of the inquiry into the future development of Stansted Airport and the Civil Aviation Authority consultation on air-line competition policy are clear, future prospects are uncertain.

Whatever the outcomes, however, the fundamental strengths of both British Airways and the British Airports Authority, which derive from the position of Heathrow as the largest and most important international airport in the world, are unlikely to be materially affected.

The lobbying of the Government and the Civil Aviation Authority by the independent airlines has been intensified by the prospect of a commercial British Airways entering the private sector with a slimmed down workforce and a relatively new and forceful management. There are fears of abuse of its dominant position and cross-subsidization leading to the virtual elimination of British independent competition.

The expression of these fears serves to emphasize the theoretical attractiveness of British Airways to the potential investor. Similar fears are expressed concerning the possible denationalization of the British Airports Authority which, unlike British Airways, has an unblemished profits record.

Attractive though these potential new companies may be, an investment in transport need

not wait for their advent. Associated British Ports, in particular, appears attractive now. The recent sale by the Government of its remaining shares has increased marketability and removed the stock overhang.

ABP (as with British Airways and British Airports) is in a unique position. It is the largest operator in its market and has the natural benefit of its geographical locations in the south and east. It has rationalized its operating structure and successfully introduced new working practices.

Additionally, it is well poised to benefit from increasing trade volumes. Its new-found management freedoms have enabled it, meanwhile, to embark upon joint ventures - most notably the Freeport at Southampton and the development of some of its property that would otherwise have little commercial use. The miners' disruption of coal movements has cast a shadow at the moment - and depressed the share price.

Nevertheless, the long term potential remains undimmed and the shares should be bought.

Elsewhere, United Parcels has not yet seen rates for its services harden, despite improved volumes; when it does the shares should go ahead. TDG, which has the deserved reputation of a very well-managed company, is also worth looking at, as most parts of its business is doing very well and it has a useful dividend yield.

Strong outperformances, however, may have to wait until TDG proves that it has diversified sufficiently away from British road haulage.

The authors are research partner and analyst respectively, at Kitcat & Aitken.

The gilt-edged market duly received last Wednesday the base-rate increase it had been looking for in the previous two weeks. The reasons for the rise, however, were only obliquely related to the underlying monetary situation and domestic economic fundamentals.

Let us consider the recent growth of the monetary aggregates. Over the last three, six and 12 months, the principal aggregates were comfortably within their target ranges. Only the broadest aggregate, PSL2, is showing any untoward buoyancy, which is a reflection of the rapid growth of building society deposits and has more of a message for the housing market than for the economy or financial markets as a whole.

In spite of this sound, underlying picture, the market had begun to have worries over the money supply. These, however, were largely based on a single month's bad figures, in particular the 1 1/4 per cent rise in sterling M3 in banking March, together with the expectation of a figure almost as bad for banking April.

In the event, this expectation was wrong and sterling M3's growth in April was only a half of 1 per cent. It is true that bank lending increased by no less than £1 1/2bn, but the fact that the market soon shrugged off Tuesday's generally good monetary news demonstrates that it is currently, to a degree, in a mood of selectively paying attention to bad news.

The glooms mood was further encouraged by the feeling that the authorities may face funding difficulties during the current financial year. This is despite the fact that the amount of gilt-edged stock that the Government needs to sell this year will probably be lower than in 1983-4, or even than the £8.25bn average of the previous four years. This pessimism is partly based on the profile of the PSBR, which is likely to be much higher in the first half of

THE GILT-EDGED MARKETS

Good news fails to check the pessimistic tack

Robert Thomas and Geoffrey Dennis

the year than in the second, when the Government's finances will benefit from higher receipts of VAT and the expected proceeds from the British Telecom sale. The PSBR will probably be about £5bn in the first half of the financial year and only half this level thereafter. The uneven pattern for the PSBR does not have strong implications for the pattern of monetary growth within 1984-5.

The needs of companies for external, and hence bank finance, are likely to rise in the second half of the year to meet the higher VAT payments and to finance an expected bringing forward of fixed-capital investment. Indeed, these potential pressures on bank lending later in the year could become a more significant domestic influence on monetary conditions than the high PSBR in the next few months.

These domestic anxieties have now been added to, indeed overtaken, by events in the US, where the combination of rising short-term rates and a firm dollar has been impossible to resist. Higher US interest rates when the dollar is weak may have little effect on British markets, but the present combination is another matter.

For much of last week, three-month interbank rates were above those consistent with the new 9-9/4 per cent base rates level. This raised some fears that base rates might have to rise further and suggested that only a relatively subdued technical rally could have been

expected. There are, however, no apparent domestic reasons for a further rise in base rates at the current time.

Overall, this recent phase in the gilt-edged market illustrates the belief that the authorities may be entering a period in which they will have to work harder to achieve the desired level of debt sales.

The period since the Conservatives came to power in May, 1979, may be conveniently divided, in market terms, into two periods of similar length with the watershed being the peak in yields in November, 1981. Before then, funding had been made difficult for many years by a series of high budget deficits relative to national income. Between 1979 and 1981, with uncertainty over the long-term inflation outlook, the Government Broker had to nurture the market carefully and be willing to innovate.

The outcome was the more extensive use of partly-paid stocks, the practice of issuing mini-taps and most notably the introduction of index-linked stocks in March, 1981. Although the authorities generally did not cut the prices of existing issues aggressively below current market prices, they con-

tinued to use the "Duke of York" device. The peak clearing bank base rate of 17 per cent in late-1979 when gilt-edged yields reached 15 per cent and more was a clear example. The tactic was even extended to the index-linked market in July, 1981, when real yields were pushed up sharply to over 3 1/2 per cent. After November, 1981, funding conditions improved dramatically and the great bull market of 1982 followed. The tighter fiscal stance further enhanced the Government Broker's ability to achieve his funding objectives.

In short, he was able to time his issues of stock (and the type of stock in question) more to his own initiative. One outcome was a decline in the volume of long-dated issues to facilitate the authorities' long-term interest burden and to encourage the re-opening of the corporate bond market.

Although there are fears that the authorities may be facing a return to the pre-November, 1981, situation, both the lower estimated required level of sales in the current financial year and sales of some £1m in banking April suggest that any such problems are liable to be short-lived. In our first article in this series on January 23, we concluded that the bear market in gilt-edged securities that was normal at this stage of the business cycle was unlikely to materialize, that there was unlikely to be a clear trend in gilt-edged prices for much of 1984, but that if US interest rates rose significantly, while the dollar remained firm, there would be upward pressure on British rates.

In the pre-Budget period, the market was on a bull track while most recently it has been on a bear track. Nothing that has happened since January has caused us to change our view that the market would be a fluctuating one in which short-term timing would be important.

Robert Thomas is the Economics Partner and Geoffrey Dennis is Senior Economist at W. Greenwell, the stockbroker.

USM REVIEW

Oilman goes to market to finance winning streak

As Texan oilmen go, Mr Alva Hickerson might well be at home on the set of the television soap opera *Dallas*, but the achievements of the Ewing family in the world of oil exploration pale into insignificance against his real-life achievements.

He has been exploring for oil for more than 30 years, from Colorado to Haiti, having dropped out of Texas law school in 1953 to develop his first acreage. The job of finding a backer to help finance and develop the site proved lengthy, but successful. He never returned to law school.

Over the past couple of years Mr Hickerson has again been putting together his own oil and gas exploration company, PetroGen, which has applied for a quote on the Unlisted Securities Market.

The stockbroker Laing & Crutchbank will be offering 4 million shares of common stock with no par value at 80p a share. This represents about 40 per cent of the equity and values the entire company at £8.2m.

PetroGen hopes to raise £2.8m from the issue which will then be placed on deposit until Mr Hickerson can find suitable investment ventures in both America and Europe.

The secret of Mr Hickerson's success lies in his ability to use American tax laws to the full. The technique is simple. PetroGen acquires a site which it thinks contains plentiful oil and gas then invites operators and American investors with high levels of tax to finance to drilling.

If commercial quantities are discovered, PetroGen puts up the tangible costs of completing the well and splits the revenue equally with the operator. But if the venture proves a failure the investors, or operator, will claim full costs from the taxman and the cost of PetroGen is kept to a minimum.

PetroGen has already struck an agreement with Alamo Securities, and independent oil and gas operator in the United States, to finance a drilling programme of \$4m a year over the next three years from investors in West Virginia.

PetroGen also has a majority shareholding in Petrodan, a Danish company, which has applied for an exploration and production licence for two onshore blocks in Denmark.



Mr Hickerson: Prospects appear impressive.

Petrodan has teamed up with Aminoil, another United States oil company, which has agreed to meet the cost of pre-drilling expenses to the tune of \$500,000.

Meantime PetroGen has acquired a working interest in eight wells in the West Wattenberg field, Colorado, from Mr Hickerson, seven of which are already in production and command a discounted cash flow of \$5.6m.

But it is PetroGen's other projects with Aminoil and Alamo where Mr Hickerson sees the real profit growth coming from. "We want to be as fast into a profit as we can", he says.

His enthusiasm is shared by the group's chief geologist Mr Jan Gording, reputed to be Denmark's top geologist, who is convinced there is oil in commercial quantities to be found on PetroGen's site in Denmark, and says the group has already decided to take part in the second round of exploration licences this year.

PetroGen is a new company with no record and the risk to potential investors could be considered higher than is usual with most exploration companies. But Mr Hickerson's experience and successes must count for something.

He is already looking for returns on the Aminoil project of six to eight times his initial investment, so the growth prospects appear impressive. Applications for shares open on May 15.

Microvitec is another company with good growth potential that has announced its intention of joining the USM. Microvitec, is Britain's leading manufacturer of computer

colour monitors, fits most leading makes of microcomputers, including Acorn and Sinclair, and has been approved by the Department of Trade.

Last week, it launched a new monitor which Mr Tony Martinez, the chairman, hopes will be a winner. The launch coincided with details of its offer for sale on the USM. The merchant banker Hill Samuel and the broker W. Greenwell is offering 7.3 million shares (26 per cent) at 180p, putting it at a pile of 36. This values the whole company at nearly £49m.

Microvitec was formed in 1979, which means it just fails to qualify for a full listing, which requires a trading record of at least five years. But Mr Martinez cannot wait another year for further financing and says the money is needed now if the company is to maintain its strong growth and maintain its lead in the market.

Last year pretax profits jumped from £195,000 to £2.51m on sales of £9.6m. Mr Martinez says it is too early to make a forecast for the current year but is looking for another healthy increase in profits, and confirms sales are substantially ahead of the same period last year.

At first glance the shares look a little expensive but, if the growth record can be maintained, this fancy rating should be justified. The price should open at a healthy premium when dealings start on May 4.

Godwin Warren Control Systems, which makes parking systems and railway buffers, has been a keen favourite of many USM watchers since joining the USM nearly a year ago at 57p. Last week's news of a substantial increase in profits last year will only serve to strengthen the group's following.

After producing a sizable increase at the half-way stage, pretax profits for 1983 rose 54 per cent to £309,000 on sales up from £3.08m to £3.4m. A total net dividend of 1.4p has already been forecast.

Over the past few months Godwin has announced several important contracts.

Analysts are hoping that several more large contracts will be announced shortly to help maintain the group's momentum. The shares closed on Friday at 113p.

Michael Clark

APPOINTMENTS

Assurance society chief

Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society: Lord Arbuthnot, the deputy chairman, has been elected to succeed Sir Michael Herries, as chairman of the Society, Pensions Management (SWF), Scottish Widows Unit Funds and Scottish Widows Fund Management for the three years to 1987. Sir Michael, whose term of office as chairman has now expired, is the new deputy chairman of all four companies.

Authority Investments: Lord Lever of Manchester has been appointed an additional director and chairman of the board of the company and of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Knowsley and Co. Mr Brian Sandelson, who has been acting chairman since the death of Sir John Foster, has become deputy chairman of both companies.

Guinness Mahon & Co: Mr John G. Woolfenden has been made a director to head the Venture Capital unit. Boddingtons' Breweries: Mr Ewart A. Boddington, chairman and managing director, will relinquish his role as managing director from July 1 and Mr Hubert V. Reid, currently assistant managing director, has been named managing director in his place. Mr Boddington will continue as executive chairman.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9 1/4%
Barclays	8 1/4%
BOCT	8 1/4%
Citibank Savings	1 3/4%
Consolidated Credit	8 1/4%
Continental Trust	8 1/4%
C. Hoare & Co	9 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	8 1/4%
Midland Bank	9 1/4%
Nat Westminster	9 1/4%
TSE	9 1/4%
Wills & Glyn's	8 1/4%
Citibank NA	9 1/4%



Fairy tales can come true.

There's a little magic in every glass of Martini Dry. In its clean, fresh taste. In its unique blend of the choicest wines and herbs. But, most magical of all, it doesn't have to disappear at midnight.



FT - ACTUARIES INDICES	
INDUSTRIAL GROUP	510.36 (515.85)
SHARE INDEX	558.72 (565.16)
EARNINGS YIELD	10.43% (10.28%)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.37% (4.31%)
PERFORMANCE RATIO (NET)	11.89 (12.07)
SHARE INDEX	511.65 (517.46)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.57% (4.52%)

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]

RACING

Master Crofter to spark double for O'Gorman

By Mandarini

There can be little dispute that Newmarket-based Bill O'Gorman is the best trainer of sprinters in this country. Like a skilled racing car mechanic, O'Gorman is able to tune his thoroughbreds to reach maximum revs and fulfil their potential.

Superlative is a prime example of O'Gorman's professional ability. After a long and arduous campaign last season, competing in many of the best juvenile events, Superlative showed he had lost none of his appetite for racing with a magnificent effort on his reappearance in the Free Handicap, losing by the minimum margin to Cutting Wind.

O'Gorman has also done exceptionally well with his two-year-olds so far this season. Provided won his fifth race from seven outings at Lingfield on Saturday and Stumping Ground completed a stable double with a success at Bath.

The 36-year-old trainer should be on the mark again at this evening's Windsor meeting where he runs Master Crofter (6.20) and Adelphi (7.40). Master Crofter was heavily supported to make a winning first appearance on 1,000 Guineas Day at Newmarket, but he ruined his chance by losing six lengths at the start. In the circumstances, this chastening of Crofter did so well to finish a close-up fourth behind the Bruce Hobbs-trained winner, Andrios.

With the benefit of that outing Master Crofter is happy

to beat Jenny Tree's newcomer, Grooming and Odd Man Out, who also showed promise in his only start. Adelphi, looked likely to score at the first time of asking at Kempton's Easter meeting but failed to hold the challenge of the more experienced Cameron by three quarters of a length.

Another Newmarket challenger is Neville Callaghan's Phamond, who chased home Phamond at Catterick, while Dimant Blanche must be considered, but Adelphi is selected to add to the O'Gorman tally.

Guy Harwood's Crazy looks capable of taking the Mar Lodge Stakes after a remarkable first run when he landed a Bath maiden by 15 lengths. He is unlikely to win by such a handsome margin this time though, with Henry Cecil's Braka - a close-up fourth behind stable companion Alleging at Newmarket last term - and Peter Walwyn's Young Nicholas in opposition.

Richard Hannon's Lily Bank is on a handy mark for the Jock Scott Handicap and Bloodella, who won at the rewarding odds of 25-1 at Brighton last month, can defy a 5lb penalty in the Dusty Miller Handicap.

At Pontefract, Michael Stoute's Abu Kadra is worth following in the second qualifier of the maiden mile championship. This Blakeney colt ran with promise on his debut behind Fire Bay at Haydock. In the Pontefract Marathon, Physical, who has recently



Bill O'Gorman: top trainer of sprinters

joined Paul Cole's stable, is preferred to Sacred Path after finishing a creditable third behind Mistry Halo in an amateur riders' race at Nottingham.

Double Dealer makes the long journey from Fulke Johnson Houghton's Bleubury stable for the Brooklands Maiden Stakes at Hamilton Park and may open his account, while Pat Haslam's Foreigner, who easily won a seller at the Scottish meeting on Friday, should complete a speedy double in the Newhouse Stakes.

Haslam's representative in the Lismahagow Selling Stakes, Alma Real, may not cope with the course winner Kelly Bay, while Mark Prescott's Hazel Bush, a dual winner this season, can carry on the good work in the Kirkfieldbank Handicap.

WINDSOR

GOING: good
Draw: high numbers best

6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)
1. 6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)
2. 6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)
3. 6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)
4. 6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)
5. 6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)
6. 6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)
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8. 6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)
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11. 6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)
12. 6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)
13. 6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)
14. 6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)
15. 6.20 BLUE CHARM MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £1,032; 5f) (15 runners)

Windsor selections

By Mandarini

6.20 MASTER CROFTER (nap) 6.45 Scottische 7.10
Blondello 7.40 Adelphi 8.10 Lily Bank 8.40 Crazy

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

6.20 Master Crofter 6.45 Scottische 7.10 Sir Blessed
7.40 Sorayan 8.10 Nazeah 8.40 Braka

By Michael Seely

6.20 Master Crofter 8.40 Crazy

6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)

1. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
2. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
3. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
4. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
5. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
6. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
7. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
8. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
9. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
10. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
11. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
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17. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
18. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)
19. 6.45 TORRISH SELLING HANDICAP (2887; 1m 2f) (22y) (19)

7.10 DUSTY MILLER HANDICAP (23,019; 1m 3f) (15y) (20)

1. 7.10 DUSTY MILLER HANDICAP (23,019; 1m 3f) (15y) (20)
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20. 7.10 DUSTY MILLER HANDICAP (23,019; 1m 3f) (15y) (20)

HAMILTON PARK

GOING: Firm

Draw: middle to high numbers best

2.30 BROCKTESBRIE MAIDEN STAKES (E753; 6f) (10 runners)

1. 2.30 BROCKTESBRIE MAIDEN STAKES (E753; 6f) (10 runners)
2. 2.30 BROCKTESBRIE MAIDEN STAKES (E753; 6f) (10 runners)
3. 2.30 BROCKTESBRIE MAIDEN STAKES (E753; 6f) (10 runners)
4. 2.30 BROCKTESBRIE MAIDEN STAKES (E753; 6f) (10 runners)
5. 2.30 BROCKTESBRIE MAIDEN STAKES (E753; 6f) (10 runners)
6. 2.30 BROCKTESBRIE MAIDEN STAKES (E753; 6f) (10 runners)
7. 2.30 BROCKTESBRIE MAIDEN STAKES (E753; 6f) (10 runners)
8. 2.30 BROCKTESBRIE MAIDEN STAKES (E753; 6f) (10 runners)
9. 2.30 BROCKTESBRIE MAIDEN STAKES (E753; 6f) (10 runners)
10. 2.30 BROCKTESBRIE MAIDEN STAKES (E753; 6f) (10 runners)

Hamilton selections

By Mandarini

2.30 Double Dealer 3.0 Foreigner 3.30 Celtic Bird 4.0
Kelly Bay 4.30 Samandar 5.0 Hazel Bush

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.30 Quality Chorister 3.0 Foreigner 4.0 Alma Real
4.30 Samandar 5.0 Hazel Bush

3.0 NEWHOUSE STAKES (2-y-o: £851; 5f) (5)

1. 3.0 NEWHOUSE STAKES (2-y-o: £851; 5f) (5)
2. 3.0 NEWHOUSE STAKES (2-y-o: £851; 5f) (5)
3. 3.0 NEWHOUSE STAKES (2-y-o: £851; 5f) (5)
4. 3.0 NEWHOUSE STAKES (2-y-o: £851; 5f) (5)
5. 3.0 NEWHOUSE STAKES (2-y-o: £851; 5f) (5)

3.30 ROSEBANK HANDICAP (E1,291; 5f) (10)

1. 3.30 ROSEBANK HANDICAP (E1,291; 5f) (10)
2. 3.30 ROSEBANK HANDICAP (E1,291; 5f) (10)
3. 3.30 ROSEBANK HANDICAP (E1,291; 5f) (10)
4. 3.30 ROSEBANK HANDICAP (E1,291; 5f) (10)
5. 3.30 ROSEBANK HANDICAP (E1,291; 5f) (10)
6. 3.30 ROSEBANK HANDICAP (E1,291; 5f) (10)
7. 3.30 ROSEBANK HANDICAP (E1,291; 5f) (10)
8. 3.30 ROSEBANK HANDICAP (E1,291; 5f) (10)
9. 3.30 ROSEBANK HANDICAP (E1,291; 5f) (10)
10. 3.30 ROSEBANK HANDICAP (E1,291; 5f) (10)

Hexham

GOING: Firm

6.0 SILEY NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1; E57; 6f) (7 runners)

1. 6.0 SILEY NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1; E57; 6f) (7 runners)
2. 6.0 SILEY NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1; E57; 6f) (7 runners)
3. 6.0 SILEY NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1; E57; 6f) (7 runners)
4. 6.0 SILEY NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1; E57; 6f) (7 runners)
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6. 6.0 SILEY NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1; E57; 6f) (7 runners)
7. 6.0 SILEY NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1; E57; 6f) (7 runners)

7.0 IAN STRAKER MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (E1,373; 2m 4f) (5)

1. 7.0 IAN STRAKER MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (E1,373; 2m 4f) (5)
2. 7.0 IAN STRAKER MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (E1,373; 2m 4f) (5)
3. 7.0 IAN STRAKER MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (E1,373; 2m 4f) (5)
4. 7.0 IAN STRAKER MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (E1,373; 2m 4f) (5)
5. 7.0 IAN STRAKER MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (E1,373; 2m 4f) (5)

7.30 GREENKAW HANDICAP HURDLE (E875; 2m 4f) (4)

1. 7.30 GREENKAW HANDICAP HURDLE (E875; 2m 4f) (4)
2. 7.30 GREENKAW HANDICAP HURDLE (E875; 2m 4f) (4)
3. 7.30 GREENKAW HANDICAP HURDLE (E875; 2m 4f) (4)
4. 7.30 GREENKAW HANDICAP HURDLE (E875; 2m 4f) (4)

2.00-5.00-10.00-15.00-20.00-25.00-30.00-35.00-40.00-45.00-50.00-55.00-60.00-65.00-70.00-75.00-80.00-85.00-90.00-95.00-100.00-105.00-110.00-115.00-120.00-125.00-130.00-135.00-140.00-145.00-150.00-155.00-160.00-165.00-170.00-175.00-180.00-185.00-190.00-195.00-200.00-205.00-210.00-215.00-220.00-225.00-230.00-235.00-240.00-245.00-250.00-255.00-260.00-265.00-270.00-275.00-280.00-285.00-290.00-295.00-300.00-305.00-310.00-315.00-320.00-325.00-330.00-335.00-340.00-345.00-350.00-355.00-360.00-365.00-370.00-375.00-380.00-385.00-390.00-395.00-400.00-405.00-410.00-415.00-420.00-425.00-430.00-435.00-440.00-445.00-450.00-455.00-460.00-465.00-470.00-475.00-480.00-485.00-490.00-495.00-500.00-505.00-510.00-515.00-520.00-525.00-530.00-535.00-540.00-545.00-550.00-555.00-560.00-565.00-570.00-575.00-580.00-585.00-590.00-595.00-600.00-605.00-610.00-615.00-620.00-625.00-630.00-635.00-640.00-645.00-650.00-655.00-660.00-665.00-670.00-675.00-680.00-685.00-690.00-695.00-700.00-705.00-710.00-715.00-720.00-725.00-730.00-735.00-740.00-745.00-750.00-755.00-760.00-765.00-770.00-775.00-780.00-785.00-790.00-795.00-800.00-805.00-810.00-815.00-820.00-825.00-830.00-835.00-840.00-845.00-850.00-855.00-860.00-865.00-870.00-875.00-880.00-885.00-890.00-895.00-900.00-905.00-910.00-915.00-920.00-925.00-930.00-935.00-940.00-945.00-950.00-955.00-960.00-965.00-970.00-975.00-980.00-985.00-990.00-995.00-1000.00-1005.00-1010.00-1015.00-1020.00-1025.00-1030.00-1035.00-1040.00-1045.00-1050.00-1055.00-1060.00-1065.00-1070.00-1075.00-1080.00-1085.00-1090.00-1095.00-1100.00-1105.00-1110.00-1115.00-1120.00-1125.00-1130.00-1135.00-1140.00-1145.00-1150.00-1155.00-1160.00-1165.00-1170.00-1175.00-1180.00-1185.00-1190.00-1195.00-1200.00-1205.00-1210.00-1215.00-1220.00-1225.00-1230.00-1235.00-1240.00-1245.00-1250.00-1255.00-1260.00-1265.00-1270.00-1275.00-1280.00-1285.00-1290.00-1295.00-1300.00-1305.00-1310.00-1315.00-1320.00-1325.00-1330.00-1335.00-1340.00-1345.00-1350.00-1355.00-1360.00-1365.00-1370.00-1375.00-1380.00-1385.00-1390.00-1395.00-1400.00-1405.00-1410.00-1415.00-1420.00-1425.00-1430.00-1435.00-1440.00-1445.00-1450.00-1455.00-1460.00-1465.00-1470.00-1475.00-1480.00-1485.00-1490.00-1495.00-1500.00-1505.00-1510.00-1515.00-1520.00-1525.00-1530.00-1535.00-1540.00-1545.00-1550.00-1555.00-1560.00-1565.00-1570.00-1575.00-1580.00-1585.00-1590.00-1595.00-1600.00-1605.00-1610.00-1615.00-1620.00-1625.00-1630.00-1635.00-1640.00-1645.00-1650.00-1655.00-1660.00-1665.00-1670.00-1675.00-1680.00-1685.00-1690.00-1695.00-1700.00-1705.00-1710.00-1715.00-1720.00-1725.00-1730.00-1735.00-1740.00-1745.00-1750.00-1755.00-1760.00-1765.00-1770.00-1775.00-1780.00-1785.00-1790.00-1795.00-1800.00-1805.00-1810.00-1815.00-1820.00-1825.00-1830.00-1835.00-1840.00-1845.00-1850.00-1855.00-1860.00-1865.00-1870.00-1875.00-1880.00-1885.00-1890.00-1895.00-1900.00-1905.00-1910.00-1915.00-1920.00-1925.00-1930.00-1935.00-1940.00-1945.00-1950.00-1955.00-1960.00-1965.00-1970.00-1975.00-1980.00-1985.00-1990.00-1995.00-2000.00-2005.00-2010.00-2015.00-2020.00-2025.00-2030.00-2035.00-2040.00-2045.00-2050.00-2055.00-2060.00-2065.00-2070.00-2075.00-2080.00-2085.00-2090.00-2095.00-2100.00-2105.00-2110.00-2115.00-2120.00-2125.00-2130.00-2135.00-2140.00-2145.00-2150.00-2155.00-2160.00-2165.00-2170.00-2175.00-2180.00-2185.00-2190.00-2195.00-2200.00-2205.00-2210.00-2215.00-2220.00-2225.00-2230.00-2235.00-2240.00-2245.00-2250.00-2255.00-2260.00-2265.00-2270.00-2275.00-2280.00-2285.00-2290.00-2295.00-2300.00-2305.00-2310.00-2315.00-2320.00-2325.00-2330.00-2335.00-2340.00-2345.00-2350.00-2355.00-2360.00-2365.00-2370.00-2375.00-2380.00-2385.00-2390.00-2395.00-2400.00-2405.00-2410.00-2415.00-2420.00-2425.00-2430.00-2435.00-2440.00-2445.00-2450.00-2455.00-2460.00-2465.00-2470.00-2475.00-2480.00-2485.00-2490.00-2495.00-2500.00-2505.00-2510.00-2515.00-2520.00-2525.00-2530.00-2535.00-2540.00-2545.00-2550.00-2555.00-2560.00-2565.00-2570.00-2575.00-2580.00-2585.00-2590.00-2595.00-2600.00-2605.00-2610.00-2615.00-2620.00-2625.00-2630.00-2635.00-2640.00-2645.00-2650.00-2655.00-2660.00-2665.00-2670.00-2675.00-2680.00-2685.00-2690.00-2695.00-2700.00-2705.00-2710.00-2715.00-2720.00-2725.00-2730.00-2735.00-2740.00-2745.00-2750.00-2755.00-2760.00-2765.00-2770.00-2775.00-2780.00-2785.00-2790.00-2795.00-2800.00-2805.00-2810.00-2815.00-2820.00-2825.00-2830.00-2835.00-2840.00-2845.00-2850.00-2855.00-2860.00-2865.00-2870.00-2875.00-2880.00-2885.00-2890.00-2895.00-2900.00-2905.00-2910.00-2915.00-2920.00-2925.00-2930.00-2935.00-2940.00-2945.00-2950.00-2955.00-2960.00-2965.00-2970.00-2975.00-2980.00-2985.00-2990.00-2995.00-3000.00-3005.00-3010.00-3015.00-3020.00-3025.00-3030.00-3035.00-3040.00-3045.00-3050.00-3055.00-3060.00-3065.00-3070.00-3075.00-3080.00-3085.00-3090.00-3095.00-3100.00-3105.00-3110.00-3115.00-3120.00-3125.00-3130.00-3135.00-3140.00-3145.00-3150.00-3155.00-3160.00-3165.00-3170.00-3175.00-3180.00-3185.00-3190.00-3195.00-3200.00-3205.00-3210.00-3215.00-3220.00-3225.00-3230.00-3235.00-3240.00-3245.00-3250.00-3255.00-3260.00-3265.00-3270.00-3275.00-3280.00-3285.00-3290.00-3295.00-3300.00-3305.00-3310.00-3315.00-3320.00-3325.00-3330.00-3335.00-3340.00-3345.00-3350.00-3355.00-3360.00-3365.00-3370.00-3375.00-3380.00-3385.00-3390.00-3395.00-3400.00-3405.00-3410.00-3415.00-3420.00-3425.00-3430.00-3435.00-3440.00-3445.00-3450.00-3455.00-3460.00-3465.00-3470.00-3475.00-3480.00-3485.00-34

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

Perils and the au pair girl

Beryl Dixon looks at the problems that can make life difficult for girls going abroad

Liz set off for Greece last year in answer to an advertisement asking for "a young lady to speak English with two small children". The family assured her in a letter that they also employed a maid and that Liz's airfare home would be paid at the end of six months. On arrival she found that the maid had mysteriously left, and that she was expected to care for the children, do all the housework and some of the cooking.

She had little free time in which to explore Athens. Having no money to cover her fare home and assuming that the contract she had signed was binding under Greek law, Liz stuck it out grimly for six months, then fled, cutting the au pair system.

Last year a national newspaper carried an article by an English girl who had arranged to work as an au pair in America. Declaring this to be the immigration official, she was immediately confined to a hotel under the constant supervision of an immigration department "escort" and sent home of the first available flight.

has at least one full day off, ample time to attend language classes and two or three evenings free. At the time of writing, the average buying power of pocket money paid to au pairs in European countries is the equivalent of £15 to £18 weekly: not a fortune, but adequate.

Duties should be light - dusting, cleaning, ironing and simple cooking. Many families employ extra domestic help. Girls can expect to be taken with the family on outings and to have their own bedrooms. It is difficult to generalize, but northern European families usually expect more in the way of domestic duties while southern Europeans are more interested in employing someone to teach English to the children.

The girl is entitled to expect these conditions: the family to expect a girl to pull her weight, not regarding the job as a cheap holiday.

Secondly, it is essential to have the conditions clearly agreed, preferably in writing and thirdly, to make adequate travel and arrival arrangements. Not being met at the station because the family had incorrect information can lead to a feeling of panic in a strange country. It is also advisable to expect some degree of homesickness at first, also loneliness while one is adapting to a strange language. Finally, in case all goes wrong, it is imperative to have sufficient funds to pay the fare home.

particularly stringent, but it is certainly preferable to approach one which is able to put a D.E. licence number on its stationery. Another check is to ask whether an agency is a member of the Federation of Personnel Services. Although not a guarantee it is likely that such an agency will offer a good service.

Government regulations permit agencies to charge a girl no more than £40 plus VAT if she accepts the job, with the services of an agency in the foreign country.

Most agencies' fees are actually below this figure. They may charge more for making insurance or travel arrangements but such fees should be clearly separate from that for finding employment.

Some agencies run "travel clubs" which advise girls to join at a higher cost and which arrange charter flights and insurance. This is perfectly legal, but what is not is to make the finding of a job conditional on joining such a club.

If possible, choose an agency which you can contact in person, and if possible, a good one has nothing to hide and will raise no objection.

Someone able to speak English

The better agencies are those which have agents in other countries. This means that there is someone on hand, usually English speaking, to whom the girl can turn if any problems arise. Some provide more assistance, advising on registration with the police and on language classes, possibly putting au pairs in the same area in touch with each other.

In a real emergency they will mediate between the au pair and family, as a last resort arranging a change of job or, failing that, provide temporary accommodation and lend the fare home.

Philip Scattergood, from an agency with many years' experience, endorses all this. He would recommend writing to several agencies for their brochures and, if possible, acting on personal recommendation. "We find that most girls come to us through friends or through talking to teachers or career advisers who remember that someone else once found a post satisfactorily through us".

If you take these steps you should go well, but as Mr Scattergood says, personality clashes can arise and then a change of family or return home may be the only solution.

A quick way is deportation

The first girl made the mistake of arriving penniless in a foreign country, the second of entering the US on a visitor's visa but intending to work. This is the quickest way known to instigate deportation. The US does not recognize the au pair system, and at present issues no permits for mothers' help. Some families instruct girls to tell immigration authorities that they are only visitors: what they omit to mention is that any medical insurance is thus automatically invalidated.

These sad stories are, however, in the minority. Hundreds of girls every year work very happily as au pairs. Moreover the au pair system is a cheap way of experiencing different cultures and learning foreign languages.

So how can a prospective au pair minimize potential problems? First, an understanding of what the au pair system involves is essential. It is an arrangement through which a girl (there are few posts open to boys) lives with a family, receiving board, lodging and pocket money in return for childcare and household duties. There are no legally laid down conditions of employment and this is where problems can arise.

How to make a start

Au pair posts can be found through advertisements, personal contact or through agencies. Having had personal - very happy experience of au pair work - I would recommend using an agency. Addresses can often be found in libraries and some advertise in magazines.

There are some cowboy agencies which charge huge fees for very little work. Agencies have to be licensed by the Department of Employment, whose regulations are frankly not

University Appointments

UNITED MEDICAL & DENTAL SCHOOLS OF GUY'S & ST THOMAS'S HOSPITALS NEW BLOOD LECTURESHIPS

1. Molecular Genetics
A molecular biologist is required to join a research group in the Paediatric Research Unit at Guy's working on inherited human diseases. The group is part of a multidisciplinary research unit, with very good laboratory facilities, scientific information service, and other background facilities. The Unit contains the South-East Thames Regional Genetics Centre. The molecular genetics group also has well established collaborative arrangements with a number of leading research centres.

The applicant should have experience of recombinant DNA work, e.g. gene cloning, expression of structural analysis, experience in mammalian cell genetics, gene mapping or linkage analysis would be an advantage.

Applicants wishing to visit the Unit should contact Professor M. Bobrow or Dr F. Gianelli (01-407 7600 ext 2337).

2. Molecular Biology
A molecular biologist with research experience is required in the Department of Chemical Pathology based at Guy's. The post offers the opportunity to work in association with a team involved in the development of material vaccines using recombinant DNA technology. Applicants should submit an outline of research proposal relating to the investigation of human pathology.

Applicants wishing to visit the Department should contact Professor S. Cohen (01-407 7600 ext 3365).

3. Immunologists
A biologist, scientifically or clinically qualified, with experience in cellular immunology and preferably with a doctorate in immunology, is required in the Department of Oral Immunology and Microbiology based at Guy's to work on immunoregulation with human and primate cells and for cell cloning.

Further details can be obtained from Professor T. Lehner (01-407 7600 ext 2960).

Appointments to these three posts will be for an initial period of three years. Applicants should not exceed 35 years of age and must not currently hold a permanent UK university appointment.

Salary in the range £20,000 - £24,125 plus £1,186 London Allowance and Superannuation. For a clinically qualified applicant appointed to the No 3 salary range is £29,490 - £34,440 plus £2807 London Allowance.

Application forms are obtainable from and should be returned to the Dean, Guy's Hospital Medical School, London Bridge, SE1 9RT not later than 2nd June 1984.

The University of Manchester CHAIR OF LAW

The University invites applications from persons with appropriate academic or professional qualifications for appointment to a Chair of Law tenable from October 1st, 1984 or as soon as possible thereafter. Salary will be within the normal professional range. Applications (suitable for photocopying) giving full details of qualifications and experience and the names and addresses of three referees to the Registrar, The University, Manchester M13 9PL (closing date June 8th) from whom further particulars may be obtained. Quote ref. 113/84/T.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON LECTURER IN CHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of Chemistry from October 1st, 1984. Candidates should have a PhD in chemistry. It is essential that the applicant will be made within the lower part of the Lectureship salary range, the scale of which is £17,100 - £24,125 (scale review) plus £1,186 London Allowance.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Academic Secretary (Personnel), University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Applications should reach him on or before 4th June 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF SWANSEA Temporary Lecturer

Applications are invited for the temporary Lectureship in the Department of Political Theory and Government.

The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the teaching of the course and to carry out research in the field of political theory and government. The appointment will be for one year from October 1st, 1984, with the possibility of extension for a further year.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and three references to the Academic Secretary, University of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, by email or by post, to be received by Friday, June 8, 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE Department of Land Economy ESRC Linked Research Studentship

The Department invites applications from good honours graduates in Economics or Geography for a studentship in the ESRC Linked Research Studentship in the Department of Land Economy.

Further details and applications to Prof. G. C. Cameron, Dept of Land Economy, 19 Silver Street, Cambridge CB2 3RQ (Tel: 0223-355262) (closing date 22nd May 1984).

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Lectureship in Management Studies (Manufacturing Systems and Methods)

Applications are invited for a new Lectureship in the Department of Management Studies. The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the teaching of the course and to carry out research in the field of manufacturing systems and methods. The appointment will be for one year from October 1st, 1984, with the possibility of extension for a further year.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and three references to the Academic Secretary, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, by email or by post, to be received by Friday, June 8, 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH LECTURESHIP IN SCOTS LAW

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of Scots Law. The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the teaching of the course and to carry out research in the field of Scots law. The appointment will be for one year from October 1st, 1984, with the possibility of extension for a further year.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and three references to the Academic Secretary, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, EH8 8JH, by email or by post, to be received by Friday, June 8, 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

Lectureship (CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT)

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of Civil Engineering. The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the teaching of the course and to carry out research in the field of construction management. The appointment will be for one year from October 1st, 1984, with the possibility of extension for a further year.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and three references to the Academic Secretary, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU, by email or by post, to be received by Friday, June 8, 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS LECTURESHIP IN POLITICS

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of Politics. The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the teaching of the course and to carry out research in the field of politics. The appointment will be for one year from October 1st, 1984, with the possibility of extension for a further year.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and three references to the Academic Secretary, University of Exeter, Exeter, EX4 4JF, by email or by post, to be received by Friday, June 8, 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL Chair of Animal Husbandry

Applications are invited for a Chair of Animal Husbandry in the Faculty of Veterinary Science. The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the teaching of the course and to carry out research in the field of animal husbandry. The appointment will be for one year from October 1st, 1984, with the possibility of extension for a further year.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and three references to the Academic Secretary, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 3GB, by email or by post, to be received by Friday, June 8, 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the teaching of the course and to carry out research in the field of electrical and electronic engineering. The appointment will be for one year from October 1st, 1984, with the possibility of extension for a further year.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and three references to the Academic Secretary, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, NG7 2RD, by email or by post, to be received by Friday, June 8, 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM LECTURER IN SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy. The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the teaching of the course and to carry out research in the field of sociology and social policy. The appointment will be for one year from October 1st, 1984, with the possibility of extension for a further year.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and three references to the Academic Secretary, University of Durham, Durham, DH1 1TA, by email or by post, to be received by Friday, June 8, 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF YORK 'New Blood' Lectureship in Medieval Architectural History

Applications are invited for a 'New Blood' Lectureship in the Department of Medieval Architectural History. The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the teaching of the course and to carry out research in the field of medieval architectural history. The appointment will be for one year from October 1st, 1984, with the possibility of extension for a further year.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and three references to the Academic Secretary, University of York, York, YO1 5DD, by email or by post, to be received by Friday, June 8, 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON LECTURESHIP IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of the History of the United Kingdom. The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the teaching of the course and to carry out research in the field of the history of the United Kingdom. The appointment will be for one year from October 1st, 1984, with the possibility of extension for a further year.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and three references to the Academic Secretary, University of London, London, WC1E 6BT, by email or by post, to be received by Friday, June 8, 1984.

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University Appointments

THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST NEW LECTURESHIP IN ECONOMICS

Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in Economics (ranked by the University of Belfast as a Senior Lecturer) in the Department of Economics. The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the teaching of the course and to carry out research in the field of economics. The appointment will be for one year from October 1st, 1984, with the possibility of extension for a further year.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and three references to the Academic Secretary, University of Belfast, Belfast, BT7 1NN, by email or by post, to be received by Friday, June 8, 1984.

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Unita frees hostages after visit by envoy

Continued from page 1

emony for Sir John, accompanied by much chanting of anti-Cuban and anti-Soviet slogans. Dr Savimbi said Unita found it hard to understand why Britain, "The cradle of democracy in the old continent", should "be the one to support totalitarianism. A fortiori in the presence of the fierce resistance of the majority of the Angolan people".

Describing the current peace initiatives in southern Africa as evidence of good will and political realism, Dr Savimbi said it would "not be strange if Britain, which more than anyone else knows this area, were not to play its part as a mediator now for the safeguard of western interests that are also hers".

Of his talks with Dr Savimbi, Sir John said that there had never been any question of recognizing Unita. "We do not recognize movements or, in our case, even governments. We recognize states."

Evidence that Britain may have underestimated Unita's military potential in the past came from two of the released hostages. Mr Robert Jones the area manager of the Kafunio mines, and Mr Ian Smythe, a metallurgist, told *The Times* that late last year Mr Marwick Goulding, the British Ambassador in Luanda, had assured Britons working in Kafunio that Unita posed no threat to the town.

The tribulations of the Britons began just before 5 am on February 23. "I was woken by what sounded like golf balls cracking against the outside of my house", Mr Smythe said. "In fact, it was sub-machine gun fire."

Eventually Unita soldiers rounded up the Britons and some of other foreigners, mainly Portuguese, and marched them south. Sometimes they walked for 20 hours a day, drinking water from streams and feeding on cassava and mealie-meal, with occasional small amounts of meat.

● **Freed Britons named:** A British Embassy spokesman in Johannesburg named the freed Britons as: Neil Ayres, Ian Feton, Robert Jones, Hywel Lloyd, William Morgan, Thomas Murphy, Graham and Vera Poplewell, Douglas Samuel, Ian Smythe, J Dougherty, Kenneth Moffat, K Saunders, A Tasker, A Dixon, Robin Kennedy and Dennis Clawson.

Runners who made it the world's biggest marathon



Winners: Charles Spedding, first man home, and Ingrid Kristiansen, first woman.



Freckles: One young contestant going strongly.

Continued from page 1

woman home, revealed she had trained in a miner's helmet to see in the dark.

For the men, the day belonged to Gateshead Harriers, the running club which provided both the first and second overall winners, Charles Spedding, of Durham, first across the line in 2:09.57, is a former 10,000 metres track runner.

He said he might have improved his time had not the stiff cool breeze slowed him.

His clubmate, Kevin Forster, was close behind him at 2:11.41.

Dennis Fowles, in third place at 2:12.12, set a world marathon record for a Welshman.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the Greater London Council leader, said at the prize-giving ceremony that, whatever political fate the GLC suffered, the 1985 London Marathon was safe.

Leading article, page 15

Sport, page 25

Men's times

World record (Alberto Salazar, New York, 1981) 2:08.13
British record (Geoff Smith, New York, 1983) 2:09.28
1984 London winning time 2:09.57
1983 London winning time 2:08.43
1984 winner's personal time 2:11.54

Women's times

World record (Joan Benoit, Boston, 1983) 2:22.43
British record (Joyce Smith, London, 1982) 2:29.43
1984 London winning time 2:24.26
1983 London winning time 2:25.29
1984 winner's personal time 2:27.51



Clowning: In it for laughs, perhaps.



Finished: A successful contestant being taken to hospital.

Letter from Majorca

A beachhead against the high-rise hordes

Where do the wise locals of Majorca, Spain's tourist boom island, *par excellence*, go nowadays to find a really good beach?

Es Trenc is the answer, the best long stretch of sandy beach still unspoiled on the Balearic island. Thanks to local politicians aligning themselves with changed island public opinion, it looks like staying a beauty spot for future generations.

With its hinterland of dunes, woods, bird and other wild life, Es Trenc will, if all goes well with a Bill in its closing stages in the Balearic Islands' regional Parliament, be saved from one of those typical development projects known as *urbanizaciones*. This ugly word is all too often chosen by promoters who have irreparably scarred Majorca's fine coastline, as elsewhere in Spain, building chalets and blocks of flats as holiday homes.

But while the "townies" like the Palma conservationist groups, reckon they can soon celebrate a famous victory, the local farmers around the dusty old agricultural town of Campos are a great deal less happy. Many, knowing how elsewhere farmers turned themselves into millionaires, selling sites to construction firms, would be delighted to do business with a big Swedish development company which had planned to buy their land to build chalets and flats for 3,000 people - half as much again as the entire population of Campos.

The farmers have a problem which makes the rate of land seem even more attractive - the growing salinization from the sea of what were once good agricultural fields due to the excessive demands of the tourist industry on Majorca's always deficient water supply. The problem has been aggravated by three consecutive years of drought.

It has not yet come to blows between the farmers and the ecological groups from Palma, but heavy chains put across the road to Es Trenc by irate local farmers were meant to show that if they were stopped disposing of their land as they wish, the "townies" will not enjoy the beach either.

You drive by a few cornfields, some cattle and flocks of sheep and then among towering cactus plants and a profusion of poppies and

hardy wild flowers sown to the edge of the dunes.

Light green water laps at rocks, but beyond them the beach stretches away for miles till, far on the horizon, you can make out exactly the kind of development Es Trenc was threatened with - the high-rise flats of San Jordi.

A weather-beaten farmer in his late 60s tells me the basic problem (insisting he is speaking Castilian, but lapsing always into Mallorquin): "The water here is now very bad. The sun comes and it turns up everything. It leaves us only with the salt."

As we talk a big tanker-lorry goes by, bringing drinking water. None of the old windmills turns any more, for the wells are useless. Es Trenc means in Mallorquin The Beach, where the sea water found an inlet.

Señor Carlos Romero, the Spanish Agriculture Minister, came last August and approved a scheme to carry water from Palma for reuse here by agriculture. However, the farmers are concerned because Campos has yet to see that pipeline being built.

"Nowhere else in Europe could a zone of such importance for wild life and natural beauty be handed over for development," said Señor Javier Pastor, chairman of the Balearic Group for the Defence of Nature and Wildlife.

Nevertheless victory is within grasp against the developers, and this on an island where three quarters of economic activity derives from tourism.

Majorca shows vividly how democracy has allowed for the expression of the changed national mood since the uncontrolled economic development under the Franco regime.

Professor Miquel Morey, holder of the first chair of ecology at Palma University, grew up in one of those small Majorca fishing villages later sacrificed to the developers. He said: "Public opinion has been very important, but unfortunately in Spain there is still too little coordinated planning to avoid confrontations like Es Trenc."

He gave a warning, however: "We cannot simply prohibit. There must be assistance to the farmers in the zones protected from development."

Richard Wigg

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Fellow of the North East Coast Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders, attends a dinner at the Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, in connection with the centenary celebrations of the Institution, 7.10. The Prince and Princess of Wales, attend a banquet given at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1, 7.30.

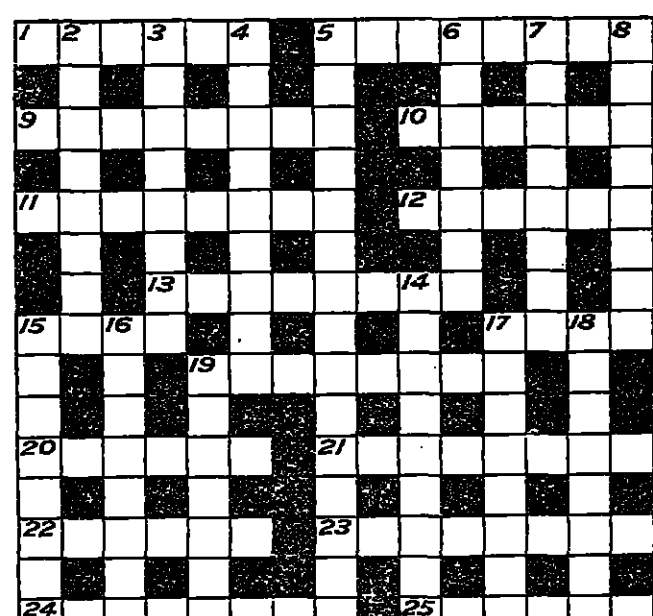
Princess Anne, Patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association, opens the Cobles Meadow Group

Indoor Riding School at Chatham, Kent, 10.30; and later, as Patron of the Home Farm Trust, opens Lympne Place, Kent, 13.30; and also, as President of the Save the Children Fund, attends the Giverny collection fashion show at Guildhall, London, 7.40.

The Duke of Gloucester, Patron of the Council for Education in North Yorkshire District General Hospital at Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, 12; and later visits Culzean Park Centre, Maybole, Ayrshire, 2.45.

Prince Michael of Kent opens the British Car Auctions premises at Watton Summit, Preston, 11.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,429



ACROSS

- 1 Agree to no money backing for author (6)
- 2 Outlaws players taking it both ways (8)
- 3 More like Samson or the lion in his middle (8)
- 4 William Bickelstaff comprehends such verses (6)
- 5 Hard after record about man's promiscuity (8)
- 6 Like a sea-bird following a ship (6)
- 7 Nobleman in swindle at back of car (4,4)
- 8 Invites failure to commence duties (4)
- 9 A team's reference line (4)
- 10 "Golden" kiss your eyes" (Dekker) (8)
- 11 Where a bird sat on the Cardinal's chair (6)
- 12 Was flute perhaps prodigal? (6)
- 13 A bit cold in the country, we hear (6)
- 14 Makes public journey - starting here perhaps (8)
- 15 Odd pair shun Omar's birthplace (8)
- 16 Comparatively infatuated, and getting red (6)

DOWN

- 1 Sketches ways to escape? (6)

3 Dispensers who miss sisters (8)

- 4 Light flan cooked in the evening (6)
- 5 Johnson's work for Saint-Just (11,4)
- 6 Raises drafts (5,2)
- 7 Vat said to be one containing a blue mix for these scenes (8)
- 8 In sight and hearing, say, gets dander up (8)
- 9 Realm most moved about marine hazard (6)
- 10 Can one more come to grief in the National? (8)
- 11 Study of movement of cattle spasms (8)
- 12 Declared to be a hair-raising journalist (8)
- 13 Brighten up! You sound to be in a bad hole (8)
- 14 Doctors rejected other things in Africa (7)

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,428 will appear next Saturday

Nature notes

Swallows are less common this year: this may be due in part to the loss of migrants as they passed through the Southern Saharan drought, but the steady demolition of old barns and cowsheds, in which they used to roost, is probably a further reason. Swallows are back in the skies, but not yet round the roofs where they breed: for the moment, they range far and wide, hunting for flying insects. Nightjars rest all day among the low branches, but dusk they sing and feed, trilling for up to five minutes at a time from a fire-tree branch, then twisting and darting among the trees after moths and roaming beetles.

Rich green, aromatic leaves are opening on the walnut trees. On crab-apples the blossom is turning whiter, as the pink fades from the underside of the petals. The coarse green leaves of ground-elder are spreading at the foot of roadside plants. Blue flowers are showing among the heart-shaped leaves of ground ivy. Lady's smock and garlic mustard (or 'jack-by-the-hedge') are in bloom; both are favourite food-plants of the caterpillars of the orange-tip butterfly, and newly-emerged adults are already gathering round them to lay their eggs. D J M

Anniversaries

Birth: Thomas Gainsborough, baptised, Sudbury, Suffolk, 1727; Robert Owen, pioneer of Socialism, Newtown, Powys, 1771. Deaths: August Strindberg, dramatist, Stockholm, 1912; Edmund Henry, 1st Viscount of Alvedon, field marshal, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, 1936. Illustrated London News first published, 1842.

The pound

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.59	1.57	1.59
Austria Sch	28.20	26.60	28.20
Belgium Fr	82.00	78.00	82.00
Canada \$	1.84	1.77	1.84
Denmark Kr	14.56	13.86	14.56
Finland Mk	8.38	7.98	8.38
France Fr	12.23	11.63	12.23
Germany DM	3.96	3.78	3.96
Greece Dr	157.00	147.00	157.00
Hongkong \$	11.20	10.60	11.20
Ireland £	1.29	1.23	1.29
Italy Lira	2445.00	2345.00	2445.00
Japan Yen	331.00	315.00	331.00
Netherlands Gld	4.48	4.26	4.48
Norway Kr	11.28	10.73	11.28
Portugal Esc	198.00	188.00	198.00
Spain Ptas	166.67	156.25	166.67
Sweden Kr	11.75	11.15	11.75
Switzerland Fr	3.28	3.11	3.28
USA \$	1.43	1.38	1.43

Yugoslavia Dnr 205.00 185.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Client may apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 345.1.

London: The FT Index closed 13.9 down on Friday at 871.

New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 10.05 on Friday at 1157.14.

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Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, report, first day.

Lords (2.30): London Regional Transport Bill, committee, first day.

Roads

London and South-east: Experimental traffic scheme on A4 Great West Road, at the junction with Windmill Road (B452); approach with caution. A41: Both carriageways reduced between A1, Barnett Way (Apex Corner) and Broadfield Avenue. Resurfacing northbound carriageway along A41, Finchley Road, between junctions with Adelaide Road and College Crescent, NW3.

Wales and West: Temporary traffic signals on A55 Bangor-Conwy road Penmaenmawr, M4: Contraflow between junctions 16 and 17 (Warrington and Broadfield Avenue). Resurfacing northbound carriageway along A41, Finchley Road, between junctions with Adelaide Road and College Crescent, NW3.

Midlands: Contraflow between junction 3 (Birmingham) and junction 4 (Bromsgrove), Birmingham. A47: Temporary traffic signals on Wisbech-Peterborough road between Guyhirn and Thorney Toll, M1: Contraflow between junctions 16 and 17 (Warrington and Broadfield Avenue). Resurfacing northbound carriageway along A41, Finchley Road, between junctions with Adelaide Road and College Crescent, NW3.

North: M62: Resurfacing between junctions 11 (Warrington East) and junction 12 (Manchester). Cheshire: Contraflow, M16: Contraflow between junctions 32 and 33 (M55 and Lancaster). A6: Roadworks at New Mills, Derbyshire.

Scotland: A74: Lane closures between Strathclyde regional boundary and Scotland/England border. A1: Milton Road East, nr Eastfield, A199, A74: Northbound carriageway closed at Beattock Summit; 2-way traffic on southbound carriageway.

Information supplied by AA

National Day

Paraguay today celebrates the anniversary of its independence from Spain in 1811. A landlocked country surrounded by Brazil, Bolivia and Argentina, it is the size of California and has a population of just over three million.

The week's walks

Today: The London of Charles Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30. The London of Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30. The London of Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30.

Tomorrow: In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes, meet Covent Garden Underground, 11.00. The London of Dickens, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30. The London of Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30.

Wednesday: The London of Charles Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30. The London of Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30.

Thursday: The London of Charles Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30. The London of Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30.

Friday: The London of Charles Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30. The London of Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30.

Saturday: The London of Charles Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30. The London of Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30.

Sunday: The London of Charles Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30. The London of Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30.

Monday: The London of Charles Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30. The London of Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30.

Tuesday: The London of Charles Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30. The London of Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2.30.

Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure from Scandinavia to SW Britain will slowly decline as a trough of low pressure crosses Northern Ireland and NW Scotland from the Atlantic.

6am to midnight

London, central S, SW England, E Midlands: Dry, sunny intervals, wind NE fresh; max temp 16-18C (61-65F). SE England, East Angles, W Midlands: Wind NE fresh, sunny on coasts; max temp 12-13C (54-55F). E, NW, Scotland, Wales, Lake District, Borders: Sunny periods; wind variable light; max temp 14-15C (57-59F).

Channel Islands: Sunny intervals, thundery rain later; wind NE strong; max temp 12C (54F). Isle of Man, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth: Dry, bright periods; wind SW light or moderate; max temp 15-17C (59-63F). NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, a little rain in places; wind SW veering W moderate or fresh; max temp 13-15C (55-59F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Most of England and Wales starting dry with sunny periods, but showers over Scotland and Northern Ireland spreading to W and N Britain. Temperatures generally near normal.

SEA PASSAGES: North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NE fresh locally strong; sea very rough. S: George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind light, variable, sea smooth.

Information supplied by AA

Lighting-up time

London 8.15 pm to 4.38 am
Brighton 9.24 pm to 4.48 am
Edinburgh 9.48 pm to 4.30 am
Manchester 9.21 pm to 4.38 am
Penzance 9.31 pm to 5.06 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud 1, fair, 2, rain, 3, sun.
Belfast 14.57, Cardiff 14.57, Glasgow 14.57, Liverpool 14.57, Manchester 14.57, Newcastle 14.57, Nottingham 14.57, Oxford 14.57, Plymouth 14.57, Reading 14.57, Southampton 14.57, Swansea 14.57, Tyneside 14.57, Wakefield 14.57, Wolverhampton 14.57, York 14.57.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Leuchars 19C (66F) lowest day temp: Far Hoe 10C (50F) highest night temp: Glasgow 10C (50F) lowest night temp: Far Hoe 10C (50F).

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